TUESDAY
July 1, 2025

BENGALURU
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KOLKATA RAPE CASE

Petitions in HC seek independent probe

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GROWING BIODIVERSITY

India listed 683 new species, 433 taxa in 2024

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STALLED NEGOTIATIONS

Not offering 'anything' to Iran, says Trump

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AN UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GST reform and tobacco control

The shortcomings in taxing tobacco products must be addressed

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CAUSING A FLUTTER

Bonzi stuns Medvedev in the opening round

SPORT » PAGE 15

EC clarifies on rules for intensive revision of Bihar voter list

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

As the electoral rolls in Bihar are undergoing a special intensive revision (SIR), the Election Commission (EC) on Monday uploaded the 2003 list of 4.96 crore electors, and clarified that a person born after 1987 need not give the proof of birth of parents if their names figure on the 2003 rolls. An extract of the voter rolls will suffice in such cases, it said.

"The ease of availability of 2003 electoral rolls of Bihar would hugely facilitate the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) in Bihar as now nearly 60% of the total electorate would not have to submit any documents. They have to just verify their details from the 2003 electoral rolls and submit the filled-up enumeration form," the EC said in a statement.

In its instructions on the SIR on June 24, the EC had mentioned that the electoral rolls with qualifying date of January 1, 2003, shall be made freely available to all booth-level officers in hard copy, as well as online on its website.

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Bihar has lagged in registering births: report

NEW DELHI
The level of registration of births in Bihar has consistently been below the national average, as per the 2009 CRS report by the Registrar-General of India. Registration level in Bihar stood at 3.7% in 2000, while the national average was 56.2%. » PAGE 10

17 dead in massive explosion at pharma unit near Hyderabad

30 workers suffer injuries with many crushed or trapped under the debris amid the chaos following the explosion; rescue work under way with teams combing the debris for survivors, victims; official inquiry on to determine cause of the blast

Naveen Kumar
HYDERABAD

As many as 17 persons were killed and 30 injured when a massive explosion ripped through a pharmaceutical unit of Sigachi Industries at Pashamylaram near Hyderabad on Monday morning.

Most of the workers employed at the unit are migrants from Bihar and West Bengal. One of them had said the factory had 12-hour work shifts from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

At the time of the blast, around 80 workers were believed to be working in the production unit.

"Five of the persons were charred in the fire," said Damodar Singh, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Deputy Commander. Officials indicated that, while the blast caused the initial devastation, many lives were lost due to the subsequent collapse of the building.

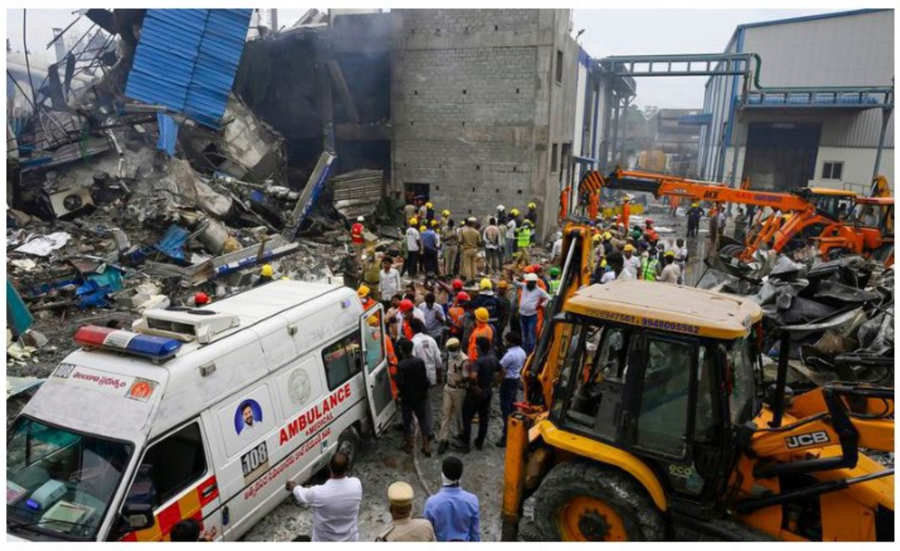
"DNA testing has been ordered to identify the deceased, whose bodies were charred beyond recognition," said Paritosh Pankaj, Sangareddy Superintendent of Police.

A majority of the victims were trapped under the production unit housing the reactor when it collapsed.

The Fire Control Room received the distress call shortly before 9.37 a.m., after which 15 fire tenders, including robots, hazmats, and multipurpose vehicles were deployed.

Vehicles were rushed from as far as Secunderabad (40 km away) and Rajendranagar fire stations (45 km). Rescue efforts continued late into the evening, with teams carefully combing through the debris for any survivors or victims.

An official inquiry is under way to determine the exact cause of the disaster.



Site of shock: Emergency response teams at work after an explosion in the Pashamylaram industrial area in Sangareddy of Telangana on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

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LOCAL PEOPLE TAKE CHARGE
» PAGE 7

NEARBY

'High command will decide on change of guard'

BENGALURU
Amid speculations within the Karnataka Congress over a possible change of guard in the government, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said that it is the party high command that has to take a call on such decisions.» Page 6

Toll in NICE Road hiked from today

BENGALURU
Toll on the NICE Road has been hiked with effect from July 1. A public notice issued by Nandi Economic Corridor Enterprises Ltd. showed that the toll on seven stretches across the corridor has shot up in the range of ₹3 - ₹5 per stretch.

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IIP growth at 9-month low of 1.2% in May

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity in India slumped to a nine-month low of 1.2% in May, with the mining, electricity, primary goods, and consumer goods sectors all contracting, and manufacturing growth slowing sharply as compared with their levels in May last year, as per the the Index of Industrial Production released on Monday.

The manufacturing sector saw its growth rate nearly halving to 2.6% in May from last year's level while the electricity sector contracted 5.8% against a growth of 13.7% in last May.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 13

Precautions and preparations

Safe base: Security personnel outside the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, a base camp for the Amarnath Yatra, in Jammu on Monday. PTI

Kuki extremist leader, three others shot dead in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

An extremist leader from the Kuki-Zo community and his two bodyguards were killed in Churachandpur district of Manipur on Monday by unidentified gunmen who ambushed their car.

An elderly woman was also killed after a stray bullet hit her.

Officials in the State capital, Imphal, said the incident occurred around 2 p.m. on Jesami Road near Mongjang village, about 10 km from the district headquarters.

Security personnel found more than a dozen empty shells at the spot, indicating that the assailants fired a volley of shots from a close range at the car in which Thenkhothang, alias Thahpi Haokip, the 48-year-old "deputy commander-in-chief" of the Kuki National Army (KNA), was travelling with his two bodyguards.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, which is said to be an outcome of a factional feud.

Gruesome killing: A pixellated photo of a victim of the ambush in Churachandpur of Manipur on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Post-stampede, police training manual revised, CPR training now mandatory

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the aftermath of the stampede at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium that killed 11 persons on June 4, the Karnataka Police Academy has now revised the syllabus to train new recruits in not only effective crowd management, but also saving lives of those stuck in large crowds. Over 5300 personnel presently being trained are learning dedicated modules to saving lives during large crowds, managing crowds to prevent stampedes.

The Karnataka Police Academy has taken up the incident as a case study and has prepared a detailed learning points module on how to handle such situations effectively.

Police personnel will now be trained in crowd control and saving lives of people stuck in the crowd.

"A module on crowd control was part of the syllabus for the past one year. But after the Chinnaswamy stadium stampede, we have revised it and improvised it with learnings from the incident," said Alok Kumar, Additional Director-General of Police (Training).

Earlier Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), a life saving practice, was not part of the police training, which has now been included in the syllabus. "With proper training, our personnel can assist victims immediately, instead of waiting for medical teams to arrive, a gap observed during the recent stampede. So we have made CPR training mandatory for all recruits henceforth," Mr. Kumar said.

Modules on preventing panic spreading in a crowd, managing rumour mongering that can make a crowd uncontrollable and post-incident measures in any eventuality have been added to the syllabus.

Four components

The revised manual also includes four more crucial components: anticipation of the crowd size, show of force to create a psychological deterrence, use of minimal force, for instance water canons, lathi charge and in extreme situations to use firearms and shoot below the waist.

The revised module also includes survival strategies even for the police personnel in a stampede-like situation. This is key, as several policemen were also injured during the recent stampede incident, an officer pointed out.

Karnataka's Ayush Shetty wins prestigious U.S. Open badminton championship

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Karnataka found its newest badminton hero in Ayush Shetty, who won the prestigious U.S. Open title at Council Bluffs, Iowa. The 20-year-old Ayush became the first Indian to win a men's singles title since Lakshya Sen's victory at the 2023 Canada Open.

Consistent showing

Ayush's maiden international triumph came on the back of consistent showings in previous tournaments, where he upset top-tier players like Loh Kean Yew and Kidambi Srikanth.

The turning point in Ayush's journey came when he moved to Bengaluru from Karkala around eight years ago. Ayush, keen to pursue the sport seriously, got to work under the guidance of former international shuttler Krishna Kumar at i-SPORTS academy.

This win will serve as the ideal platform for Ayush Shetty to achieve greater deeds, says his head coach Sagar Chopda. FILE PHOTO

Ayush performed well at the junior level, and then moved to Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy. With Olympian Vimal Kumar and head coach Sagar Chopda as mentors, Ayush grew in stature. He won a bronze medal at the 2023 World Junior Championships, and finished as runner-up in a couple of international challenge/series tournaments.

Ideal platform

Sagar believes that this win will serve as the ideal platform for Ayush to achieve greater deeds. "Before this, he had not won a single international tournament. Considering that, this big win will be a good confidence boost," Sagar said.

Sagar added that these are the first steps towards realising Ayush's big goal – to break into the top-10 in the world rankings.

Ayush's grand run received praise from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who posted a congratulatory message on X. "You have made Karnataka and India proud with your dedication and grit. Your triumph inspires every young aspiring player to dream big and strive hard."

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 16

Where is the sword-swishing, humming Jadeja?

It has been a while since the premier all-rounder has brought out his iconic celebration after crossing a milestone with the bat; the 36-year-old, who is going through a slump with the ball too in the longest format, will look to make amends for his underwhelming show in Headingley

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

Ravindra Jadeja's left-arm spin was put to an arduous test at Leeds. The final evaluation for his match figures of 47-5-172-1: room for improvement.

The Headingley pitch got drier as the first England-India Test progressed, and the stage was set for Jadeja to utilise the rough outside the left-hander's off-stump. The last day's play, however, did not pan out as expected.

Southpaw Ben Duckett (149, 170b) reversed the narrative Indian fans had hoped for by playing the reverse-sweep to perfection against Jadeja, and made sure England chased down the 371-run target without much fuss.

Reverse sweep, under normal circumstances, is not a percentage shot on a wearing day-five pitch. The marauding English batters don't go by conventional wisdom, though.

Just the prospect of Duckett unleashing his beloved weapon got Jadeja to err in line and length. It's another matter that Duckett brought out the audacious shot even when Jadeja found the rough.

Duckett scored 36 runs in 16 balls (both innings) through reverse sweeps against Jadeja, and never once did the ball go in the air uncontrolled. Jadeja will have to come up with some answers to reverse this trend against the English opener.

"I could not believe how poorly he bowled, really. I'd likened it to owning a hammer but punching nails in with your fist instead - not landing the ball in the rough at all until, basically, it was too late. That was extraordinary," Mark Butcher said on the *Wisden Cricket Weekly Podcast*.

"You talk about experience, and he has all the experience in the world. Somehow, it didn't seem to click to him or Rishabh Pant, the 'keeper, that it might be a good idea not to keep missing the rough all day to the left-handers," he added.

Jadeja's journey in Tests

	Batting					Bowling				
	M	Runs	Avg	HS	100s/50s	Wkts	Avg	Econ	SR	5WI/10WM
Overall	81	3406	34.75	175*	4/22	324	24.59	2.54	57.8	15/3
Since the start of the 2024 Ind-NZ series	7	276	23.00	77	0/1	21	35.00	3.48	60.3	2/1

Bowling across countries

Country	M	Inns	Balls	Runs conceded	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg	Econ	SR	5WI/10WM
In New Zealand	3	6	624	303	5	2/22	2/46	60.60	2.91	124.8	0/0
England	13	23	2880	1346	28	4/79	7/258	48.07	2.80	102.8	0/0
Australia	7	10	1137	523	18	4/62	5/127	29.05	2.75	63.1	0/0
Sri Lanka	2	4	650	374	13	5/152	7/236	28.76	3.45	50.0	1/0
South Africa	2	2	374	154	6	6/138	6/154	25.66	2.47	62.3	1/0
West Indies	5	10	899	341	16	3/26	5/64	21.31	2.27	56.1	0/0
In India	49	97	12191	4929	238	7/42	10/110	20.71	2.42	51.2	13/3

In England

Venue	M	Inns	Balls	Runs conceded	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg	Econ	SR	4WI
Headingley	2	3	474	260	3	2/88	2/88	86.66	3.29	158.0	0
Edgbaston	1	2	124	65	0	-	-	-	3.14	-	0
Lord's	2	4	475	147	3	2/46	3/99	49.00	1.85	158.3	0
Old Trafford	1	1	81	36	1	1/36	1/36	36.00	2.66	81.0	0
The Oval	3	6	990	458	15	4/79	7/258	30.53	2.77	66.0	1
The Rose Bowl	2	4	430	250	6	3/52	5/205	41.66	3.48	71.6	0
Trent Bridge	2	3	306	130	0	-	-	-	2.54	-	0

Under scrutiny

It is not often that a tweaker's returns come under such scrutiny after a red-ball game in The Old Blighty – a land where swing rules over spin.

There was enough help for Jadeja to work with in Headingley, but he could not deliver the desired results; hence, the finger-pointing at the finger-spinner.

England is in the middle of an uncharacteristically hot summer. The tracks will stay dry (for English standards), and Jadeja will have to step up his game in the forthcoming Tests.

"I am going to be critical of Jadeja. This was a final-day pitch with rough patches for him to exploit. And while there were a couple of chances, we have to expect more from someone of his experience. These weren't typical English conditions where the pitch offers nothing. I felt he didn't use the rough nearly enough – especially against Duckett," Sanjay Manjrekar told *JioHotstar* after India's five-wicket loss.

It was not as if Jadeja did not make any meaningful contributions towards India's cause. His 2.95 economy in the first innings was the best among Indian bowlers (a decent effort against the Bazballers). The lack of movement in the wickets column, though, took the sheen away.

In the second essay, after Duckett's onslaught, Jadeja did come into his own against another southpaw, Ben Stokes. The English skipper, too, tried to employ the reverse sweep against the left-arm spinner.

This time, however, Jadeja was in better rhythm. He induced eight false shots out of the 16 balls that Stokes tried to play the reverse sweep in the second innings. Jadeja got his man soon, with Stokes top-edging an attempted reverse sweep straight to India captain Shubman Gill. Jadeja's success, however, came after England had already breached the 300-run mark, and it proved too little too late. He did toil hard, but one would have counted on the No. 1 Test all-rounder to have a greater say in favourable conditions.

The final day Headingley pitch.
N. SUDARSHAN

"Against Stokes, yes, he did make an effort. But it was only much later in Duckett's innings that Jadeja started using the rough properly. When you're dealing with experienced bowlers and seasoned batters, you expect a higher level of tactical awareness. Somewhere, I felt Jadeja was disappointing. The seamers had no help from the surface, but Jadeja at least had something in the pitch working in his favour," Manjrekar added.

Decline

Jadeja's stats in Test cricket have taken a hit of late. The premier all-rounder has not crossed the 30-run mark in his last six innings, and his overall numbers, too, are on a decline.

Since the start of the 2024 India-New Zealand series, Jadeja averages 23 with the bat and 35 with the ball (the exact opposite returns in the disciplines would have been near perfect). India's progress report in the seven matches that Jadeja played during the period: six losses and a draw.

Jadeja's journey towards bucking this trend in the bowling front is not going to be easy on English shores, where he has not got it right with his left-arm spin.

Jadeja has the second-worst average (48.07) and strike rate (102.80) as a bowler in England, only behind his numbers in New Zealand, where he averages 60.6 with a strike rate of 124.8.

Edgbaston, the venue of the second Test, holds some fond memories for Jadeja. He had slammed a century – his first outside home – and helped India post a mammoth 416 in the first innings of the rescheduled fifth Test (2021-22 series). A victory, though, proved elusive for the visitor as England chased down 378 in the fourth innings (sounds familiar) to level the series 2-2.

The all-rounder had gone wicketless in that Test and will be keen on starting his redemption arc by catching some edges in Edgbaston, the same ground where a 24-year-old Jadeja's all-round brilliance (33 n.o., two for 24) paved the way for India's 2013 Champions Trophy triumph.

Experience and accountability

A decade on, just like the volume of Jadeja's beard, his responsibilities, too, have gotten thicker.

Though his athleticism in the field may not give it away, the 36-year-old is a veteran of 81 Tests. And experience does breed responsibility and accountability.

"I don't like to give myself any tag. Whatever the team needs, I try to perform accordingly.

"As an all-rounder, sometimes a situation will come where you need to score runs and either save or win the match for the team.

"In bowling, you are expected to give a breakthrough. I consider myself a team player. Whatever the team needs, I will try to do it," Jadeja had said after the 2022 Edgbaston Test.

Losing the experience of 296 Test caps after the retirements of R. Ashwin (106 Tests), Rohit Sharma (67), and Virat Kohli (123) means that Jadeja dons the senior tag in the Indian team now and he will be expected to set the benchmark for his younger colleagues.

Team in transition

A team in transition yearns for its seasoned players to lead the way, and India can ill afford a misfiring Jadeja.

The 36-year-old may have lost a few battles recently, and it has been a while since he brought out his iconic sword celebration after crossing a milestone.

The onus is on him to show the world that the warrior within remains unbroken, and the sword is still sharp for future duels.

THE GIST

- It is not often that a tweaker's returns come under heavy scrutiny after a red-ball game in The Old Blighty — a land where swing rules over spin
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- Though his athleticism on the field may not give it away, the 36-year-old is a veteran of 81 Tests. And experience does breed responsibility and accountability

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POWERING UTTAR PRADESH

EMPOWERING PROGRESS

Transforming Energy Access, Infrastructure and Sustainability Across the State

Empowering Every Corner: UP Delivers on Its Power Promise

In recent years, Uttar Pradesh has made remarkable strides in strengthening its power sector, transforming not just the way electricity is produced and distributed—but how it fuels growth, empowers rural communities, and shapes a sustainable future.

Consistent power supply everywhere today, uninterrupted power is no longer a dream but a daily reality for Uttar Pradesh:

- 20 hours 06 minutes of electricity is available on average in rural areas
- 22 hours 22 minutes in tehsil headquarters
- 24 hours in district headquarters.This significant improvement reflects the state government's commitment to ***"Power for All."***

Powering Progress: How Uttar Pradesh's Power Sector Transformed After 2017

BEFORE 2017	AFTER 2017
10–12 hrs rural supply	20.06 hrs rural supply
14–16 hrs urban supply	24x7 district HQ supply
Many hamlets unconnected	2.49 lakh+ hamlets electrified
35% T&D losses	T&D losses cut to 24-26%
Poor billing and collection	85%+ billing efficiency
Manual systems	Online payments, 1912 helpline
1 GW solar capacity	4 GW solar installed

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

100% Village Electrification
Lighting up even the smallest hamlets

Strengthening Power Distribution with Capacitor Banks
627 capacitor banks installed at 33/11 KV power substations

Improved Financial Health
DISCOM reforms, better billing & collection

Customer Service Revolution
1912 helpline, apps, SMS alerts

Expansion and Upgradation of Power Infrastructure
748 new 33/11 KV power substations have been established, and the capacity of 1,528 substations has been upgraded

Feeder Separation
Reliable power for homes & farms

Rapid Growth in Electricity Connections
During the period 2012–17, approximately 844,000 electricity connections were issued, compared to 17.5 million connections issued to date.

Promoting Clean Energy through the Saubhagya Scheme
Installation of 53,354 solar power pack systems under the "*Saubhagya Scheme*"

Clean Energy Push
Solar parks and rooftop installations are helping to power the future of Uttar Pradesh

Electricity is not just about power-it's about empowering lives. From villages to cities, a brighter Uttar Pradesh.

Building a Stronger Grid

To support growing demand and enhance quality, major upgrades have been undertaken:

- 748 new substations (33/11 kV) constructed; 1,528 upgraded • 9,926 distribution transformers installed, and 28,602 upgraded
- 51,941 km of Aerial Bunched (AB) cables deployed, replacing old, unsafe wires in over 19,000 villages
- Faulty transformers now replaced within 24 hours, ensuring reliable supply

Lighting Every Corner

Back in 2017, only 1.28 lakh habitations had access to electricity, but today that number has increased to 2.49 lakh, bringing light to even the remotest corners.

A total of 1.79 crore connections have been provided from 2017 to 2025, taking the total number of consumers to 3.61 crore.

DRIVING THE SOLAR REVOLUTION

From Ayodhya to Bundelkhand Expressway, UP is embracing the power of the sun:

- Ayodhya is being developed as a Solar City, Bundelkhand Expressway as a Solar Expressway
- 16 municipal corporations and Noida are also being developed as Solar Cities
- Under the Solar Energy Policy 2022, the state targets 22,000 MW of solar energy generation

TO POWER THE RENEWABLE TRANSITION

- 3,000 ***"Suryamitras"*** will be trained in solar installation and maintenance in FY 2025–26

KEY INITIATIVES INCLUDE

- 500 MW solar project in Jalaun (with Coal India Ltd.)
- 200 MW solar plant in Jhansi (with NTPC Green Energy Ltd.)
- Solar parks in Jhansi, Lalitpur, Kanpur Nagar & Dehat, Chitrakoot, Jalaun
- 53,354 solar power packs installed under Saubhagya
- Rooftop solar projects of 508 MW, with private investments of 2,653 MW

BOOSTING THERMAL POWER GENERATION

The state's own energy production capacity is also expanding:

- 7,140 MW thermal capacity by UPRVUNL (as of Dec 2024)
- 1,980 MW additional capacity via joint ventures, generating 37,056 million units
- 2x800 MW Obra 'D' thermal plant
- 3x660 MW Ghatampur project

SMARTER, MODERN DISTRIBUTION

- Rs. 24,800 crore invested since 2017 in modern transmission systems
- 193 substations and associated lines energised
- Advanced metering and infrastructure upgrades under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme
- 627 capacitor banks installed for power efficiency

SIMPLIFYING ACCESS

A dedicated ***"zhatpat portal"*** ensures quick and transparent domestic connections-delivering ease, efficiency, and empowerment at citizens' fingertips.

UTTAR PRADESH'S POWER SECTOR-BRIGHT TODAY, BRIGHTER TOMORROW

With a future-ready approach, Uttar Pradesh is not just distributing electricity it is powering ambition, prosperity, and sustainable growth for all.

M BG-BGE

Kombucha can 'rebalance the gut ecosystem in people with obesity'

While kombucha's traditional use and composition suggest health benefits, few rigorous studies have tested these claims in humans. Most research until now has focused on its biochemistry or has been limited to animal models. This is why a recent study in *The Journal of Nutrition* stands out

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

No single brand of kombucha can claim to be 'good' for all consumers across geographies. DUONG NGAN/UNSPLASH

From Instagram reels to supermarket shelves, kombucha – the fizzy, fermented tea drink – has found a growing audience among health-conscious consumers in India. Promoted as a probiotic powerhouse, it's touted for its supposed benefits to digestion, immunity, and metabolism. According to one estimate provided by Indian company Sbooch, the kombucha market in India grew from $45 million in 2020 to $102 million in 2024.

Yet much of the enthusiasm has outpaced science. While kombucha's traditional use and composition suggest potential health benefits, few rigorous studies have tested these claims in humans. Most research until now has focused on kombucha's biochemistry or has been limited to animal models.

This is why a recent study in *The Journal of Nutrition* stands out: it takes a closer look at kombucha's effects on the human gut microbiome and how they matter for human health.

The study followed 46 healthy adults in Brazil – 23 with obesity and 23 of normal weight – over eight weeks in a pre-post trial. The participants were classified using (World Health Organisation cut-offs of) BMI and waist circumference. Every day, each participant consumed 200 ml of kombucha that had been prepared in the lab using black tea and fermented with a symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (SCOBY).

All participants were otherwise healthy and had no recent history of drugs, antibiotics, or supplements. Stool samples were collected at the beginning and end to assess gut microbiome changes. The researchers used genomic tools to profile bacterial and fungal communities.

They also measured fasting blood glucose, insulin, and proteins linked to gut barrier integrity since a weakened gut lining can allow harmful molecules to enter the bloodstream, trigger low-grade inflammation, and ultimately engender insulin resistance.

What we know, what changed

After eight weeks, the overall microbial diversity was largely unchanged but the abundance of certain bacteria had changed in ways that suggested kombucha may help positively rebalance the gut ecosystem.

Chemical analysis of the kombucha revealed a rich array of phenolic compounds, mostly flavonoids (81%) and phenolic acids (19%). These polyphenols are largely unabsorbed in the small intestine, reaching the colon where they serve as fermentable food for gut microbes. The authors suggested that they may promote the growth of certain bacteria by stimulating the secretion of mucus and creating a more hospitable gut environment.

Notably, the population of *Akkermansiaceae* bacteria had increased in individuals with obesity. Previous research has linked this shift with better blood sugar control and insulin sensitivity.

The levels of *Prevotellaceae* also increased, specifically in the obese group. Certain strains of *Prevotella copri* have similarly been linked to improved insulin sensitivity, hypertension, and inflammation. Both groups also reported a higher abundance of *Bacteroidota*, which play significant roles in digesting complex carbohydrates.

Bacteria associated with less favourable outcomes including *Ruminococcus* and *Dorea,* declined, becoming similar to the normal-weight group by the eighth week. *Ruminococcus gnavus* has been positively associated with inflammatory bowel disease and liver fat accumulation, while *Dorea* with high BMI and cholesterol markers.

In normal-weight participants, *Parabacteroides* increased modestly. *Parabacteroides goldsteinii* has been known to reduce tissue inflammation, ameliorating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *Helicobacter pylori* infections.

The populations of *Exophiala* and *Rhodotorula*, two fungi associated with cystic fibrosis and obesity, respectively, decreased as well.

While the study offers promising clues about kombucha's influence, especially for individuals with obesity, the researchers urged caution. The microbial shifts were modest and didn't improve metabolic markers like blood glucose, insulin, or inflammatory proteins.

Vineet K. Sharma, a metagenomics researcher at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, noted that while most studies in India have focused on associations rather than causality, microbial shifts have been linked to metabolic changes in several cases. "For instance," he said, "production of metabolites by gut microbes, such as short-chain fatty acids, bile acids, or tryptophan derivatives, has been shown to influence glucose metabolism, inflammation, and gut barrier integrity."

While the study offers promising clues about kombucha's influence, especially for individuals with obesity, the researchers urged caution. The microbial shifts were modest and didn't improve metabolic markers like blood glucose, insulin, or inflammatory proteins

The team also pointed out that microbial responses vary by diet, genetics, and overall health, thus reducing the generalisability of the findings. And with a short duration and a modest sample size, the findings remain a proof-of-concept.

The results are still valuable in what they reveal, however: kombucha does appear to nudge the gut microbiome in directions associated with better metabolic health after two months.

Kombucha and India

Whether the effects will hold for Indian populations remains an open question. Studies have indicated gut microbiota in India are distinct. In one of Sharma's studies, Indian gut microbiomes formed a clearly separate cluster from Western populations.

Indian guts, particularly among those consuming traditional plant-based diets, harbour more *Prevotella*, an inversion of the typical Western microbial pattern. Since consuming kombucha increased *Prevotellaceae* abundance in the study, it may not drive the same degree of change in local populations.

"Even among Indians, microbiome composition varies with diet and location across the six regions we studied," Sharma said. While North Indians have more *Prevotella*, South Indians carry a higher load of *Bacteroides* and *Ruminococcus*. Women from rural high-altitude areas have greater gut diversity than their urban counterparts. Ethnic tribes from Ladakh, Jaisalmer, and Khargone can be differentiated based on their gut microbiomes alone.

Taken together, the new study is proof that no single brand of kombucha can claim to be "good" for all consumers across geographies. The drink may support gut health, but whether that translates to long-term metabolic benefits remains to be seen.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and a science communicator from Delhi.
anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)

This image shows Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' H2A rocket in Tobishima, Japan. AP

Japan launches climate satellite on last flight for main rocket

Associated Press

Japan on Sunday (June 29, 2025) successfully launched a climate change monitoring satellite on its mainstay H-2A rocket, which made its final flight before it is replaced by a new flagship designed to be more cost competitive in the global space market.

The H-2A rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan, carrying the GOSAT-GW satellite as part of Tokyo's effort to mitigate climate change. The satellite was released into a planned orbit about 16 minutes later.

The launch follows several days of delays because of malfunctioning of the rocket's electrical systems.

Sunday's launch marked the 50th and final flight for the H-2A, which has served as Japan's mainstay rocket to carry satellites and probes into space with a near-perfect record since its 2001 debut. After its retirement, it will be fully replaced by the H3, which is already in operation, as Japan's new main flagship.

"Even though our launches seemed stable, we have run into difficulties and overcome them one by one to come this far," said Iwao Igarashi, senior general manager of the space systems division at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which operated launch services.

"As we now move on to the H3 launch service, we will firmly keep up the trust we gained from H-2A."

The GOSAT-GW, or Global Observing Satellite for Greenhouse Gases and Water Cycle, is a third series in the mission to monitor carbon, methane, and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Within one year, it will start distributing data such as sea surface temperature and precipitation with much higher resolution to users around the world, including the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, officials said.

Sunday's launch marked the 50th and final flight for the H-2A. It will be fully replaced by the H3, which is already in operation, as Japan's new main flagship

The liquid-fuel H-2A rocket with two solid-fuel sub-rockets developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency has so far had 49 flights with a 98 per cent success record, with only one failure in 2003. Mitsubishi Heavy has provided its launch operation since 2007.

H-2A successfully carried into space many satellites and probes, including Japan's moon lander SLIM last year and the popular Hayabusa2 spacecraft in 2014 to reach a distant asteroid, contributing to the country's space programmes.

Japan sees a stable, commercially competitive space transport capability as key to its space program and national security and has been developing two new flagship rockets as successors of the H-2A series – the larger H3 with Mitsubishi, and a much smaller Epsilon system with the aerospace unit of the heavy machinery maker IHI.

It hopes to cater to diverse customer needs and improve its position in the growing satellite launch market.

The H3, is designed to carry larger payloads than the H-2A at about half its launch cost to be globally competitive, though officials say more cost reduction efforts are needed to achieve better price competitiveness in the global market.

The H3 has made four consecutive successful flights after a failed debut attempt in 2023, when the rocket had to be destroyed with its payload.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Physics's greatest hits: the effects

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

In the _____ effect, a photon scatters off an electron, losing some energy and thus leaving it with a longer wavelength. The discovery of this effect also proved that light is made of particles. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

The spectrum of, say, a lamp is the various energies at which it is emitting radiation; each energy is called a spectral line. In the presence of a magnetic field, each spectral line splits up into multiple. What is this effect called?

QUESTION 3

When a body moves in a rotating frame of reference, it experiences an apparent sideways deflection — an effect crucial to understanding cyclones and Foucault's pendulum. Name the effect.

QUESTION 4

A fluid that is moving faster has lower pressure. This principle, also called an effect, explains many fluid flows in daily life, including the lift of airplanes. Name it.

QUESTION 5

When the temperature of a (type I) superconductor drops below its critical value, the material expels all magnetic fields from within its bulk. Thus a magnet placed on the surface will start to levitate. What's this effect called?

Answers to June 26 quiz:

1. Planet whose day is longer than its year – **Ans: Venus**
2. First planet to be discovered with a telescope – **Ans: Uranus**
3. Saturnian moon with diverse surface features made of hydrocarbons – **Ans: Titan**
4. Body classified as both dwarf planet and largest asteroid – **Ans: Ceres**
5. Planet hosting the fastest winds in the solar system – **Ans: Neptune**

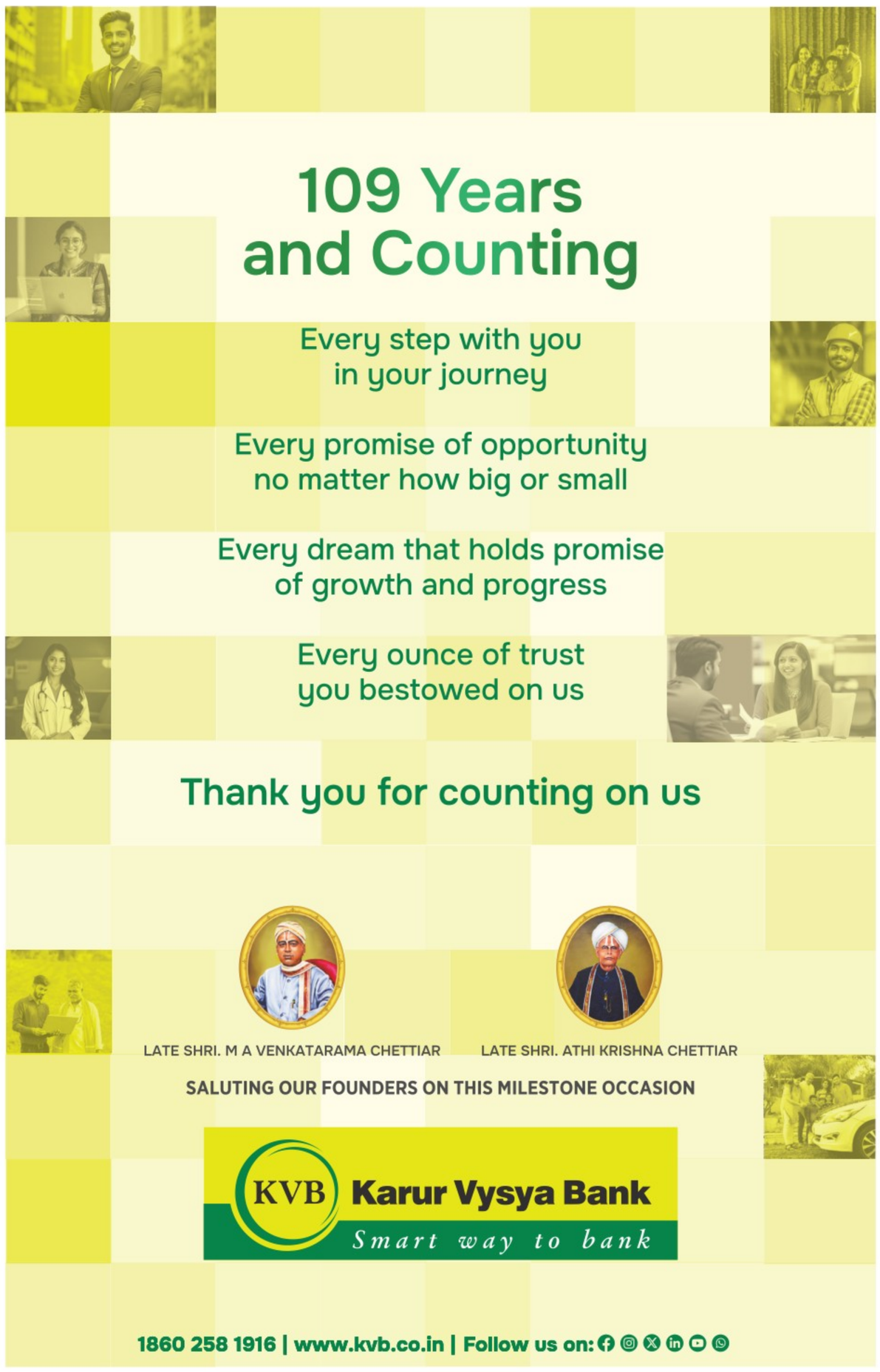
Visual: **Io**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | C. Saravanan | Tamal Biswas | Krick Gosai | Amar Pratap

Note: The June 26 quiz incorrectly stated Titan to be a Jovian moon. It's a Saturnian moon.

Visual: This is a diamond exhibiting cathodoluminescence. Its inverse effect is called X. Name X. Credit: PAVEL SOMOV (CC BY)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'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and Counting
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in your journey
Every promise of opportunity
no matter how big or small
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of growth and progress
Every ounce of trust
you bestowed on us
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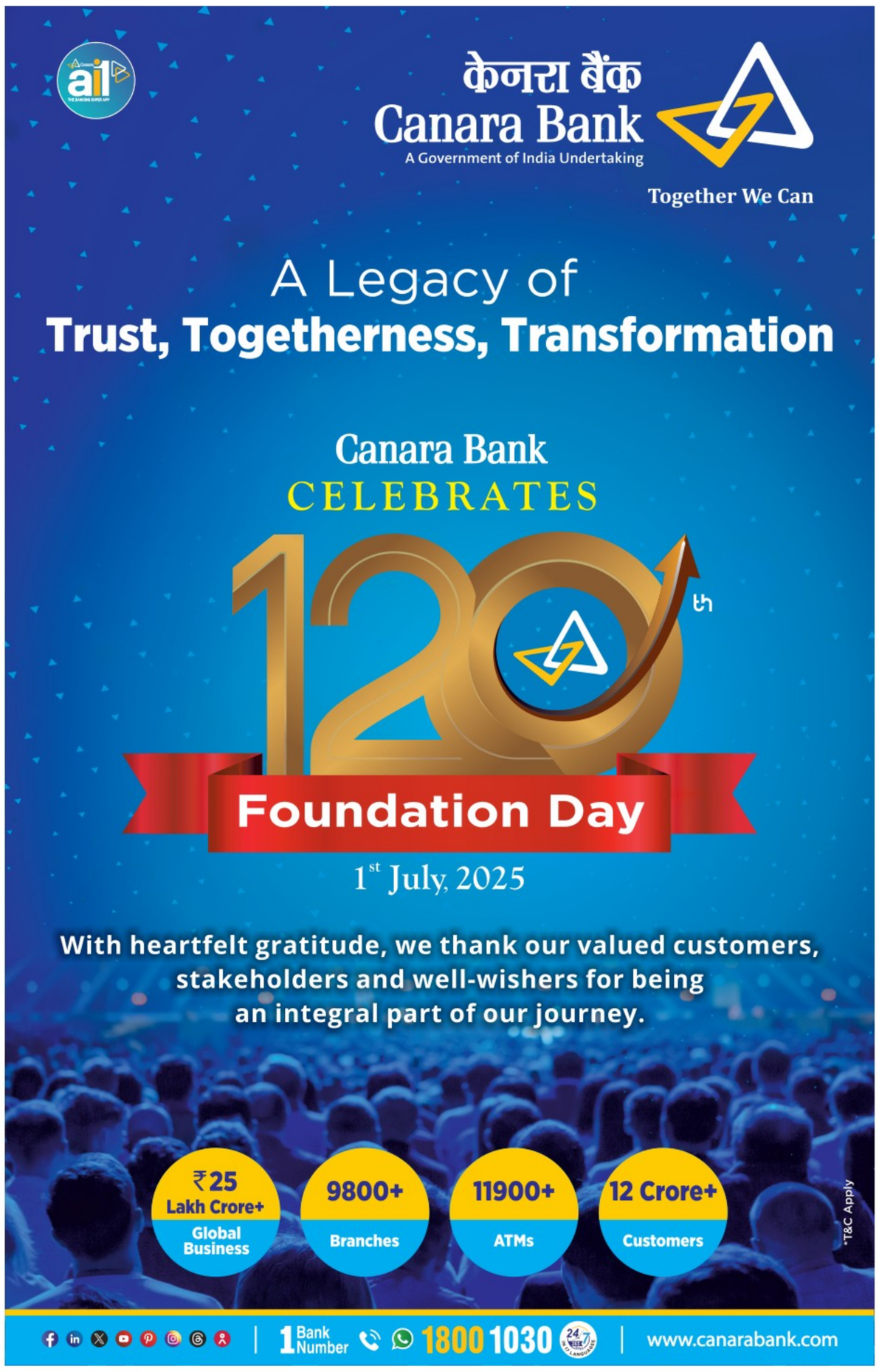

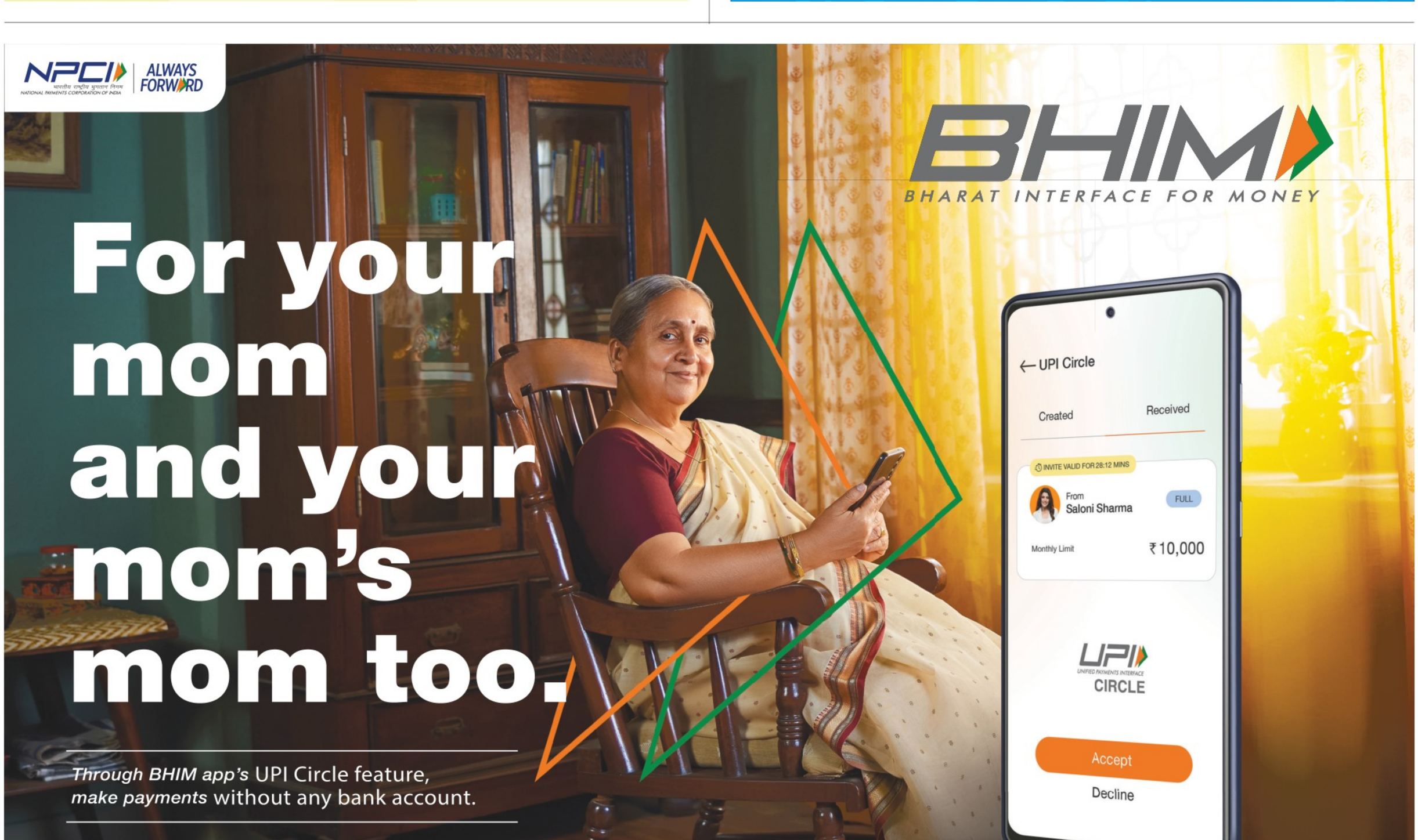

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of people killed in Iran during conflict with Israel

935 Israel on June 13 launched a major bombing campaign against Iran, killing top military commanders and atomic scientists. The Israeli strikes hit nuclear sites as well as residential areas. The death toll in Iran included 132 women and 38 children. AFP

Beneficiaries found ineligible for Women's Pension Scheme

60 In thousand. Over 60,000 beneficiaries have been found ineligible under the Delhi government's Women's Pension Scheme following a large-scale verification exercise conducted by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department, officials on Monday said. PTI

The decrease in India's industrial output growth in May

1.2 In per cent. India's industrial production growth slowed to a nine-month low of 1.2% in May 2025 due to poor performance of manufacturing, mining and power sectors caused by the early onset of monsoon, according to official data released on Monday. PTI

Brazil's public sector debt as a share of GDP in the month of May

76.1 In per cent. Brazil's public sector gross debt rose slightly to 76.1% of GDP in May from 76.0% in April. The increase was driven mainly by interest payments, the central bank said, in a month when the primary budget deficit came in narrower than expected. REUTERS

Amount approved for road and infra in Himachal Pradesh

3,667 In ₹ crore. The Centre has approved the annual plan of ₹3,667 crore for the construction and up-gradation of roads, bridges and related infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh for FY2024-25. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

How do unsafe cancer drugs reach patients?

Who is responsible for ensuring that cancer drugs are sterile and non-contaminated? How does the U.K. ensure drug safety? Do all low- and middle-income countries have adequate drug testing facilities? What happens when contaminated cancer drugs reach patients? How has the WHO intervened?

EXPLAINER

Andjela Milivojevic

The story so far:

A major new investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism published by *The Hindu* has revealed that bad cancer drugs have been shipped to more than 100 countries around the world. Before a cancer drug reaches a patient, they would have already undergone a long, complicated journey. Once the raw materials have been sourced, a typical drug will be manufactured, packaged, shipped, locally distributed and finally put to use. And at every stage of this process, the drug's quality must remain unharmed. Relatively innocuous events – a change in temperature or poor handling – can have critical effects.

GETTY IMAGES

What are the risks in manufacturing?

One of the biggest dangers is contamination. Ensuring that cancer drugs are sterile is the ultimate responsibility of the manufacturers. Every action must be tightly controlled. Staff working without proper disinfection processes can carry contaminants. Even a technician moving too quickly in a clean room can create air movement that spreads bacteria. Everything is sanitised right down to the pens and paper.

The process is unforgiving: if raw ingredients aren't tested adequately, if equipment isn't cleaned properly, and if water isn't filtered thoroughly, these lifesaving medicines can become lethal.

How do countries ensure such safety?

About 80% of NHS prescriptions in England are generic drugs, identical copies of branded drugs that can be made once a drug's patent expires. About two-thirds of those come from abroad. To try to ensure that these drugs are safe, the following measures are in place – every batch undergoes two rounds of quality testing, at the manufacturing site, and then on entering the U.K.; during each of these rounds of tests, 20 different markers of drug quality are checked; only specific experts are qualified to verify each batch; and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency regularly inspects manufacturing facilities, both in the U.K. and abroad.

Such testing systems are the gold standard. Many low- and middle-income countries, however, face significant challenges. In Nepal, for example, limited resources and expertise mean that there is no effective testing and monitoring of imported medicines. Many countries also lack the ability to track drugs through supply chains and, like Nepal, do not have any verified experts or facilities to check drug quality. These shortcomings, combined with corruption issues and porous borders, all mean that bad and potentially counterfeit drugs can enter healthcare systems.

What are the consequences?

Drugs that have not been manufactured properly can be toxic or contaminated – and put a patient in immediate danger.

In 2019, five young patients from Saudi Arabia developed a high fever, and one died, after taking an Indian-made medicine given at the same time as chemotherapy drugs. In the same year, four children died and more than a 100 fell ill in Colombia when given the same type of drug. In 2022, at least 10 children in Yemen died after receiving methotrexate, a critical chemotherapy drug used to treat leukaemia and other cancers, that had been contaminated with a deadly bacteria. In 2023, the Bureau uncovered a dozen poor-quality brands of a childhood cancer drug used in Brazil.

What's WHO doing to ensure safety?

The World Health Organization (WHO) maintains a rapid alert system for dangerous drugs. After a concern has been raised, the WHO assesses it and an alert is then sent out to all member governments. However, this system only catches problems after harm occurs.

The WHO has put several mechanisms in place to keep a check on drug safety in low and middle-income countries. One is the Global Benchmarking Tool: a tool that assesses and rates national regulatory systems on a scale of 1 (least mature) to 4 (most mature). In 2023, 70% of WHO member countries were rated level 1 or 2, meaning they have limited capacity to check drugs coming into the country. Then we have the Essential Medicines List: a list of medications that are considered to be the safest and most effective for meeting the most important health system needs. While generic versions of drugs on this list could still be fake or substandard, the existence of the list helps countries prioritise limited resources. Third, there are prequalification programs which are lists that contain laboratories, specific drugs and sources of active pharmaceutical ingredients that the WHO has inspected, evaluated, and confirmed to be acceptable for use. This helps governments and national regulators procure safe medicines. Fourth, is the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certification which ensures that pharmaceutical products are consistently produced and controlled to quality standards. Most countries will only accept the import and sale of medicines that have been manufactured by internationally recognised GMPs. And finally the WHO certification scheme. A Certificate of Pharmaceutical Products (CoPP) can be requested by a country that wants to import a medicine, and it would issued by the exporting country according to the WHO guidelines. It acts like a passport for medicines, proving the item is approved and safely made in the exporting country.

These measures certainly provide some protection against dangerous drugs, but the protections they offer simply aren't enough. Without the level of oversight seen in countries like the U.K., these measures often fail to prevent substandard drugs from reaching patients.

Andjela Milivojevic is with The Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

THE GIST

- Ensuring that cancer drugs are sterile is the ultimate responsibility of the manufacturers. Every action must be tightly controlled.
- Drugs that have not been manufactured properly can be toxic or contaminated — and put a patient in immediate danger.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) maintains a rapid alert system for dangerous drugs.

Can a G.I. tag prevent cultural misappropriation?

How many Indian products are registered as GI-tagged goods? Do 'international' GI rights exist?

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

On June 25, at its Spring/Summer 2026 menswear show in Milan, Italian luxury brand Prada unveiled footwear inspired by India's Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Kolhapuri chappals, sparking accusations of 'cultural misappropriation'.

What is a geographical indication?

It is a form of 'intellectual property' that identifies goods as originating from a specific country, region or locality, where their distinctive qualities, characteristics, or reputation are essentially linked to that 'place of origin'. In India, there are currently 658 registered GI-tagged goods, including Chanderi sarees (Madhya Pradesh), Madhubani painting (Bihar), Pashmina shawls (J&K), Kancheepuram silk (Tamil Nadu), and Darjeeling tea (West Bengal). Importantly, GIs serve as a powerful marketing tool, driving rural development, boosting exports, enhancing consumer confidence, and preserving 'cultural knowledge' of local communities, farmers and indigenous groups. Unlike trademarks, which are owned by enterprises, GIs are public property belonging to the producers of the concerned goods and cannot be assigned, transmitted or licenced.

The legal protection of GIs stem from international instruments like the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883), and later gained a clearer definition under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, 1995. India, as a TRIPS signatory, enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in 2003. The Act provides for GI registration, enforcement of rights, prohibition of unauthorised use and penalties for infringement.

How can infringement be tackled?

The registered proprietor or authorised users may initiate infringement action when an unauthorised user misleads the public about the origin of goods, causes unfair competition or passing off, or falsely represents goods as originating from a GI-registered region. However, it is important to note that GI rights are primarily 'territorial' and consequently limited to the country (or region) where protection is granted. At present, no automatic 'world' or 'international' GI right exists. Nevertheless, several mechanisms exist for cross-border protection. GIs can be protected internationally by first securing recognition in the country of origin, as many jurisdictions require this as a precondition and then obtaining protection directly in the jurisdiction concerned.

Is this the first such case?

Indian traditional products have time and again suffered exploitation by global corporations. In 1997, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) controversially granted a patent to Ricetec Inc., a Texas-based company, for novel "lines and grains" of Basmati rice. After significant Indian legal efforts, the USPTO disallowed the patent holder from using the name "Basmati". Similar challenges arose with 'turmeric' when the University of Mississippi medical centre was granted a patent in 1995 for turmeric's wound-healing properties – a use long known in Indian traditional medicine. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research contested the claim, leading to the revocation of the patent. Likewise, the European Patent Office in 2000 revoked a patent granted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a multinational firm W.R. Grace, for neem-based antifungal formulations, as the therapeutic use of neem was already part of Indian knowledge systems. To prevent such cases in the future, one could start by expanding the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library to include wider traditional grassroots expressions. Making a 'searchable database' would allow brands to conduct due diligence and searches to identify right holder communities for collaboration.

Kartikey Singh is a lawyer based in New Delhi. With inputs from Janhvi Singh.

THE GIST

- Geographical indication is a form of 'intellectual property' that identifies goods as originating from a specific country, region or locality, where their distinctive qualities, characteristics, or reputation are essentially linked to that 'place of origin'.
- India, as a TRIPS signatory, enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in 2003.
- Indian traditional products have time and again suffered exploitation by global corporations.

Group Capt. Shukla to interact with students from ISS on July 4

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is aboard the International Space Station (ISS), is expected to talk to the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Bengaluru via ham radio on July 4.

"Contact upcoming with India! @Axiom_Space #Ax4 crew member Shubhanshu Shukla, VU2TNI, will talk to the UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Karnataka via ham radio from the Space Station. Scheduled Friday. July 4 at 10.17 UTC | 6.17 a.m. ET | 3.47 p.m. ISS via K6DUE telebridge," Amateur Radio on the ISS (ARISS) posted on X.

Live interactions
Gp Capt. Shukla who is spending 14 days in the ISS will connect with URSC at 3.47 p.m. (IST) on July 4.

"We have certain live events from orbit and we will be doing live interactions, including one with a VIP. We will have interactions with students, academia and also with the space industry so that I can share not just my story but also my experience on orbit with people in our country," Gp Capt. Shukla had said earlier this month.

Gp Capt. Shukla, the first Indian on the International Space Station (ISS), spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 28.

Two events
Last month, Sudeesh Balan, project director, ISRO, said that the space agency is planning two student events in which the astronaut would be interacting directly with the student community.

"One activity is a student event where the astronaut would be interacting directly with the student community. We are planning two such events across the country. Apart from that, there is an amateur radio link, which is an existing tradition in the ISS. There will be an amateur radio contact with the student community. We have identified the students, and these activities are currently in progress. We have located two places in India where this will be happening," Mr. Sudeesh said.

Tiger deaths at M.M. Hills: DCF, ACF sent on compulsory leave

The order says despite the carcass of five tigers being found just 100 metres from an asphalt road, it did not come to the attention of the department staff for two days which is a very serious lapse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Forest Department has sent the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) and Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) of M.M. Hills Wildlife Division on compulsory leave following the death of five tigers – a mother and its cubs – in the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka on June 26.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) in an order issued on Monday sent DCF Chakrapani Y. and ACF Gajanana Hegde on compulsory leave until further notice.

Not noticed
The order said that despite the carcass of five tigers being found just 100 metres from an asphalt road, it did not come to the attention of the department staff for two days which was considered a very serious lapse in forest and wildlife conservation. It also said that the carcasses were found just 800 metres from an anti-poaching camp.

The carcass of one of the five tigers that was found in the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The order also said that non-payment of salaries and allowances to the frontline outsourced staff also hampered the patrolling.

"Prima facie it is found that the reason for this [death] is the negligence of the DCF, ACF, Zonal Forest Officer and Sub-Zonal Forest Officer and patrol personnel of the M.M. Hills Wildlife Division, and an investigation is required; action is being taken separately against the Sub-Zonal Forest Officer-cum-Surveyor and patrol personnel of the branch concerned at the level of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chamarajanagar Circle, Chamarajanagar," the order stated. The department has also given additional charge to officers for the above posts.

Investigations
The State government has also constituted a high-level committee to probe the tiger deaths. The high-level committee has been directed to submit a report in 14 days.

Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre on Monday said that disciplinary action would be taken if any negligence of any officer was found in the case.

Disciplinary action was likely to be taken following the completion of the investigation and submission of the investigation report.

Forest officials have arrested three persons who were allegedly directly involved in the poisoning of the tigers. The three accused have been charged under the relevant sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Indian Forest Act, 1969.

SIT formed
The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also ordered a probe into the incident and constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for the purpose.

BIS to host cultural event on July 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a unique confluence of history, music, and cultural revival, the Bangalore International Centre (BIC) will host 'Echoes of a Golden Empire - The Cultural and Literary Tapestry of Vijayanagar' on July 3 from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on its premises in Domlur II Stage.

The evening will feature a specially curated classical music performance that draws inspiration from the rich heritage of the period. Acclaimed vocalist Krithika Sreenivasan will lead the concert, accompanied by Rakesh Dath on the flute, Deepikaa Srinivasan on the Mridangam, and R.P. Prashanth on the veena, bringing to life the sounds that once resonated through the imperial courts and temples of Vijayanagar.

The event, hosted at BIC, invites music lovers, history enthusiasts, and cultural connoisseurs to experience a nuanced blend of scholarly storytelling and musical artistry.

Admission is open to all, and prior registration is recommended through the BIC website.

Crackdown on autorickshaws continues; 260 cases booked, 98 vehicles seized in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a crackdown on erring autorickshaw drivers, the Transport Department on Monday launched citywide surprise checks and booked as many as 260 cases for different violations. Similar drives were conducted in Nelamangala and Ramanagara towns as well.

The crackdown comes amid a surge in public complaints over fare manipulation, route refusals, and passenger harassment by autorickshaw drivers following a demand for auto rides after a ban on bike taxis in the State.

Transport Department officials carrying out intensified checks of autorickshaws in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

During the special drive, 22 teams of officials from the Transport Department focused on autos operating without valid permits, charging exorbitant rates, refusing to go on hire and violating traffic or transport regulations.

By the end of the day-long operation, 260 cases were registered, and 98 autorickshaws were seized for various violations in Bengaluru city. In Nelamangala, officials booked 30 cases and seized two autos, while nine cases were booked and four autos were seized in Ramanagara town. Cases were registered for lack of valid documents, non-functional and tampered fare meters, and refusal to operate on metered fares.

The highest number of violations was reported in the Bengaluru South RTO limits, where 48 cases were booked and 18 autos seized. This was followed by Bengaluru West with 36 cases and 13 autos seized, Bengaluru East with 30 cases and five autos, and Electronic City zone with 26 cases and eight autos.

Bescom's new BTM Layout sub-division office inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Energy Minister K.J. George on Monday inaugurated the newly constructed building of the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company's (Bescom) S-16 Madiwala Sub-Division Office in BTM Layout.

Previously operating from rented premises, the S-16 sub-division will now function from its dedicated facility, constructed at a cost of ₹3.17 crore.

The new office falls under the Koramangala zone and is expected to enhance service delivery and operational efficiency for the area.

'Robust infrastructure'
Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. George emphasised the importance of robust infrastructure in delivering uninterrupted and efficient services to citizens. "BTM Layout is one of Bengaluru's major residential areas with over 83,000 power connections. This new facility will strengthen BESCOM's ability to cater to the needs of the public more effectively," he said.

Reliable power supply
Mr. George noted that BESCOM was committed not only to reliable power supply but also to building long-term infrastructure that reduced operational costs.

"With all essential infrastructure now in place, the financial burden of operating from rented premises is removed, and citizens will benefit from improved service delivery," Mr. George added.

Bescom Managing Director N. Shivashankar and several senior officials of the department were present at the event.

BBMP, govt. told to clear ₹10.41 crore COVID dues to private health centres

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to pay ₹10.41 crore to two private health establishments towards the pending dues to them for providing COVID-19 testing facilities way back during 2020-2022.

Two petitions
Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar issued the directions while allowing the separate petitions filed by BGS Global Institute of Medical Sciences, Kengeri, and Vijayalakshmi Diagnostics Pvt Ltd (VDPL), Nagarbhavi.

BGS institute had sought directions for release of ₹4.53 crore and VDPL had sought release of ₹5.88 crore while pointing out that the authorities, though have admitted payment due to the petitioners, had said that they were unable to release the remaining amount due to pendency of enquiry before a One-Man Commission of Inquiry into the irregularities occurred during COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2023. The petitioners have said that the payment of the remaining amount is pending since 2022.

'Not subject to inquiry'
The BBMP had told the court that it had sought permission from the commission of inquiry to release around ₹44 crore to various establishments towards the balance amount due for providing various health services during COVID-19 pandemic, but the commission had rejected their request pending inquiry. However, the court said that non-payment of dues in relation to RT-PCR tests conducted by the petitioners was not the subject matter of the inquiry before the commission.

BBMP liable
"It is clear that in the light of the undisputed/admitted fact that the BBMP had not paid the legitimate dues payable to the petitioners, in the absence of any material to show any kind of nexus or connection whatsoever between the liability of the BBMP and the inquiry commission, it cannot be said that the BBMP was not liable to pay/clear the legitimate dues payable to the petitioners," the court said while directing release of the amount to the petitioners within six weeks.

UGCET: Over 10,000 requests for correction in application

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Candidates of UGCET-25 will be given a final opportunity to correct mistakes in their applications through online mode from July 1 to 4, according to a statement issued by H. Prasanna, executive director, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

Only those who genuinely need corrections to use this window, the statement said.

More than 10,000 candidates had submitted requests when the slot booking for corrections was open. To avoid calling such a large number of students to Bengaluru from across the State, KEA decided to provide an online correction facility. Additionally, during the CET seat allotment consultation held on June 28 in various parts of the State, many parents also requested this option, he noted.

Corrections can be made online on the KEA website

As KEA opened the online correction window, the previously planned offline document verification at its office from July 2 to 4 has been cancelled, following the opening of the online correction window. So, even candidates who had booked slots for offline verification need not visit the KEA office. Instead, they too must complete their corrections online, the KEA executive director clarified in a statement.

The statement said that if the details on the verification slip are correct, candidates need not log in again. Only those who must make corrections should do so. He advised candidates not to open the portal "just to check" and then mistakenly make changes.

After July 5
Those who make corrections can download their updated verification slip after July 5. Candidates can correct their category, income, and 371(J) certificate RD numbers through the online portal. Class 'A' candidates (whose details could not be verified online through SATS number), those whose rural study or Kannada medium study details have not been verified, must complete the verification at their respective colleges or the nearest government PU college by July 4, the statement said.

Candidates from Class 'B' to Class 'O' who have not yet verified their documents must visit the KEA office between July 1 and 4 for verification.

IISc researchers develop simple sensor which can potentially aid in detecting liver cancer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a unique luminescent probe that uses terbium, a rare earth metal, to sense the presence of an enzyme called beta-glucuronidase, which can potentially aid in the detection of liver cancer.

According to IISc, beta-glucuronidase is an evolutionarily conserved enzyme found across life forms - from microbes to plants and animals. Its core function is to break down a sugar acid called glucuronic acid.

"Beyond its biological omnipresence, the enzyme also doubles as a critical biomarker for liver cancer. In fact, an upsurge in beta-glucuronidase often accompanies colon, breast, and renal cancers, as well as infections of the urinary tract and AIDS," IISc said.

Uday Maitra, honorary professor at IISc, interacting with students in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Conventional methods
"Conventional methods of colorimetry and fluorescence for detecting such enzymes are often restricted by sensitivity or interference from background signals. The ability of rare earth metals to have long-lived excited states allows us to filter out short-lived background fluorescence, resulting in a much clearer signal," said Ananya Biswas, former PhD student at IISc and co-first author of the paper published in Chemistry.

Roots of the project
The roots of the project trace back nearly a decade, beginning with the team's experiments on metal ions and their gel-forming properties. The team found that terbium ions couched in a gel matrix derived from bile salts can emit green fluorescence.

Within the same gel matrix, the team added an organic molecule called 2,3-DHN (2,3-Dihydroxynaphthalene) "masked" with glucuronic acid. When beta-glucuronidase slices this modified molecule, 2,3-DHN gets released. The researchers then shined UV light on the sample.

"The free 2,3-DHN acts as an 'antenna' - absorbing UV light and transferring the energy to the terbium ions nearby, greatly enhancing their green emission. The gel matrix ensures sufficient proximity between the 'antenna' and terbium ions, facilitating efficient energy transfer," said Uday Maitra, honorary professor in the Department of Organic Chemistry, IISc, and corresponding author of the study.

Ease of application
For ease of application, the team designed this assay as a simple paper-based sensor by anchoring the gel matrix onto a paper disc. When beta-glucuronidase pre-treated with modified 2,3-DHN is added, the disc exhibits a much stronger green glow under UV light.

IISc said that the uniqueness of this technique is the analysis. "Unlike conventional high-end fluorescence detection systems, these sensors can be analysed using a UV lamp and ImageJ, an open source, freely accessible software, making this technique ideal for resource-limited settings," it said.

ABSTRACT

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

When does the gender gap emerge with respect to mathematical abilities?

A study in France found that boys and girls began school with the same mathematical abilities, but a gender gap began emerging in the first year of school. This finding was consistent across private and public schools, in schools catering to high- and low-income families, and in every region

Radhika Santhanam

Martinot, P., Colnet, B., Breda, T. et al, 'Rapid emergence of a maths gender gap in first grade', *Nature* (2025). doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-09126-4

Across the world, women are under-represented in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Their absence has consequences: it narrows perspectives in STEM, potentially hinders progress in research, and perpetuates gender differences at the workplace.

This inequality stands in stark contrast to the fact that boys and girls begin school with the same mathematical abilities. A gender gap begins to emerge only after boys and girls start learning the subject formally in school, that is, during the first year. These are the findings of a study published recently in *Nature* by researchers in France. Understanding this data and the underlying reasons are crucial as they can help policymakers intervene at the right time and in the right ways to narrow the gap.

Findings of the study

In the past, educationists, economists, sociologists, psychologists, and others have conducted several studies. One study in the U.S. showed that a maths gender gap favouring boys emerged within the first few years of schooling. Another study that followed 2,633 children in France found that a maths gender gap was absent in kindergarten but became favourable to boys by ages 7-8.

The latest study in *Nature* reinforces what other studies have found in the past, but by using "an exceptionally large and exhaustive dataset," according to the researchers. The researchers studied 26.53 lakh children aged 5-7 years in France over four years. They analysed four consecutive cohorts from 2018 to 2022. All these children took the EvalAide, a nationwide battery of tests given to first and second grade students to assess their language and maths abilities.

When boys and girls entered school, their average maths performance was nearly identical in 2018. There were more boys clustered among the top and bottom performers. However, just after four months of schooling, the researchers found a small but highly significant gap emerging, which favoured boys. By the next year, there were twice as many boys as girls among the top 5% of performers.

Importantly, this gap was found in every cohort across the four consecutive years. This meant that it was not due to any specific societal, economic, or curricular changes in a particular year. The gap was found in each region of France, in schools serving communities at both high and low socio-economical levels, in private as well as public schools, and regardless of family composition.

Curiously, the gap between boys and girls was wider if the children were from high-income families – a phenomenon not found for language. It was also larger among high-income families where both parents held scientific occupations.

Analysing the gender gap

Since the children had similar abilities when they started formal education, we can conclude from the data that the gap is not related to any fundamental gender differences in aptitudes. So what explains the gap?

First, a few caveats. Researchers write that since the data is descriptive in nature, it can't be used to pin down causes. Second, a study conducted at intervals prevents any evaluation of the potentially continuous effect of school exposure or the effect of vacations. Third, the tests were not strictly identical at all points of time during the study. Fourth, the data is limited to one country.

Nevertheless, they offer some explanations consistent with their findings.

Maths problems are solved in a particular time frame and in a competitive setting, and these are conditions that girls are taught to fear. Their consequent anxiety could be exacerbating the gap. The researchers say this explanation is congruent with their finding that greater test difficulty enhances the gender gap.

Stereotypes that boys are better at maths could also be widening the gap. The researchers write that "maths-related activities or exercises (for example, counting and subtracting) start to be more clearly identified as belonging to the maths domain" in primary school. They believe that this "sudden labelling of maths-related activities as 'maths' (whereas language activities start earlier in preschool) might give space for gender stereotypes surrounding maths to emerge, to be internalised by children and, eventually, to affect their self-concept and performance."

The attitudes of primary school teachers may be a factor as well. For example, teachers may encourage girls to read more and boys to do more division and subtraction. That is, they may attribute intellect to boys and diligence to girls. Parents may also have such assumptions about aptitudes.

Suggested interventions

As the problem begins after children start schooling, the researchers believe improving teacher training will be a crucial intervention. If teachers are encouraged to question girls and boys equally often during maths and science classes, and also to focus equally on the talents and efforts of children of both genders, it could lead to improved outcomes.

Also, if teacher training in maths is increased to improve their confidence and interest in this topic, it could effectively reduce the gap. This, the researchers say, is especially true of a country such as France, where most primary school teachers are female.

Interventions could also be directed towards children. For boys and girls to become convinced that maths is worth the effort, they should be exposed to both male and female role models with whom they can identify.

The researchers also suggest that girls should be provided with ways to cope with anxiety related to competition. They suggest implementing self-affirmation tasks. They also express belief that accentuating an incremental view of intelligence – that is, emphasising that abilities and intelligence are malleable and can be developed through effort and learning – would help.

In short, it takes just a few months for a gender gap to emerge, so quick interventions could help close the gap effectively.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Van Mahotsav is a week-long celebration from July 1 to July 7. A quiz on this festival

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
What does the name 'Van Mahotsav' mean?

QUESTION 2
Who organised the first tree-planting week in July 1947 that inspired the Van Mahotsav?

QUESTION 3
In which year did the Van Mahotsav become a national festival observed in the first week of July?

QUESTION 4
Why is the Van Mahotsav observed during the first week of July in India?

QUESTION 5
Which government body is primarily responsible for organising and promoting the Van Mahotsav across India?

QUESTION 6
At the time of the first event in 1947, an Indian freedom fighter and a founding figure of Independent India had said "A growing tree is the living symbol of a progressive nation." Identify this person.

Visual question:
Identify the woman planting the sapling in the picture.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The primary reason for hosting the first-ever Wimbledon championships in 1877. **Ans: To pay for the repair of the pony roller that was needed to maintain the lawns at the (then) All England Club**
2. The first-ever winner in the inaugural event and the reward he got. **Ans: Spencer Gore. He was awarded a prize money of 12 guineas and a silver challenge cup**
3. Apart from Djokovic, these men have seven triumphs against their name. **Ans: Pete Sampras and William Renshaw**
4. The year when the balls were changed to yellow. **Ans: The 'Optic Yellow' coloured balls were first used in 1986**
5. The reason why competitors sport a pre-dominantly white apparel. **Ans: To hide the 'unsightly' sweat stains which would show up on coloured clothing!**
6. Name the first electronic line judging aid introduced in 1980. **Ans: Cyclops**
7. Though the Championships started in 1877, this is the reason why the current tournament will be the 138th edition and not the 149th. **Ans: Because The Championships was suspended during WW I and WW II because of bombing threats and cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic**
Visual: Identify the statues and the reason why there are in the Championships' record books. **Ans: Nicolas Mahut and John Isner, who in 2010 played the longest-ever match over 11 hours, 5 minutes with the final set lasting 491 minutes!**
Early Birds: Rahul Arora| Sukdev Shet| Sonali Das| Suchit Narottam| Siddhartha Viswanathan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"How was the test?"
"It was pretty easy, actually. Spent all weekend preparing for it though."
"What did you do during the weekend?"
"I was pottering about in the study."
"Pottering about? You mean you made pots?"
"No! No! 'Pottering about' is an informal expression used in British English. When you say you have been pottering about, it means that you have been 'spending time in a gentle, unhurried way, doing pleasant but unimportant things.' For example, I can say, my grandmother spends the mornings pottering about in the garden."
"Can I say, I spend every morning pottering about in the classroom?"
"Do you enjoy being in the classroom?"
"Of course not! You know I hate school."
"Well, in that case, you cannot say 'I potter about in the classroom.' You usually use the expression 'potter about' with unimportant things that you like to do."
"I see. Usha loves to potter about in the kitchen. Can I say that?"
"You can. You could also say, Usha loves to potter around in the kitchen. We can use both 'potter around' and 'potter about'."
"My father likes to potter around in parks."
"My boss tells me that even he likes..."
"... talking about your boss, did you show him your proposal?"
"I did. He gave it the thumbs down."
"Thumbs down! I've drunk Thumbs Up before. But what is a thumbs down?"
"Let me give you an example. If you release a movie and the audience give it a thumbs down, it means that the audience didn't like it. They think it is a lousy movie and that it is not likely to succeed."
"I see. So the expression 'thumbs down' is used to indicate disapproval. Is that right?"
"Exactly! When I was young, I wanted to join the army, but my father gave it the thumbs down."
"Meaning your father didn't approve of your joining the army and therefore didn't give you the permission to join it."
"Right again!"
"My sister wanted to visit Simla during the summer, but my mother gave it the thumbs down."
"My boss wanted to hire two more people, but the management gave it the thumbs down."
"But tell me, why did your boss give your proposal a thumbs down? I thought it was pretty good."
"My boss approved of it, but the management didn't."
"But why?"
"Because the management consists of a bunch of potatoheads!"
"A potatohead! What's a potatohead? A stupid person?"
"That's right! A potatohead is a stupid person."
Published in The Hindu on January 28, 1997.

Word of the day

Noisome:
causing or able to cause nausea; offensively malodorous

Synonyms: loathsome, nauseous, offensive, queasy, sickening, vile, fetid, foul, funky, smelly, stinking

Usage: *You will need a calm retreat from the noisome fray.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/noisomepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈnɔɪ.səm/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Group art exhibition begins tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Art enthusiasts in the city are in for a treat as 'The Friendly Brush Strokes', a vibrant group art exhibition, will take place from July 2 to 6 at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath (CKP), Art Complex, located on Kumarakrupa Road.

The exhibition will showcase the creative expressions of five talented artists – Meghna, Meera, Srinivas, Sojaa Soman, and Christopher – each bringing their unique style and perspective to the canvas. The show will be open to the public daily from 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The event will be inaugurated by S.N. Shashidhara, general secretary of CKP at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Adding to the occasion, Fr. Moncy Nellikunnel SDB, Executive Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy, will participate in the event as the Guest of Honour. With a diverse range of artworks on display, 'The Friendly Brush Strokes' promises to be a celebration of creativity, collaboration, and artistic dialogue.

BIS Bengaluru conducts training

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru Branch Office, conducted a two-day Residential Reinforcement Training Programme for mentors on June 27 and 28. The event brought together 56 mentors from BIS Standards Clubs across Karnataka, aiming to strengthen their understanding of BIS initiatives and promote standards-based education.

The programme featured insightful sessions led by senior BIS officials. Narender Reddy Beesu, Director of BIS-Bengaluru, emphasised the critical role of quality standards in everyday life. Premalata Sinha, Joint Director, presented an overview of BIS's core functions, including standardization, certification, testing, training, and educational outreach.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUL. 01	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:50
RISE 11:10	SET 23:32
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 02	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 11:56	SET 00:00
THURSDAY, JUL. 03	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 12:41	SET 00:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Property owners up in arms after notification for road widening lists past owners

They raise concerns that this move by BBMP may lead to a 'TDR scam' where bogus land owners are provided Transferrable Development Rights

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

A view of the ITPL - Hoodi Main Road in Bengaluru. Significantly, the BBMP had issued notices to the present owners for road widening in 2017, acknowledging their ownership. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Proroperty owners on ITPL - Hoodi Main Road who are set to lose parts of their properties to road widening are up in arms after Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) issued a draft notification for land acquisition on June 18.

The civic body in its notification has listed names of owners in Records of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC), that are not updated for decades now, even as the property ownership has changed several hands now.

Significantly, BBMP itself had issued notices to the present owners for road widening in 2017, acknowledging their ownership.

H.M. Chandrashekhar, who bought a plot and built a residence off the road in 1987, is now shocked to see his part of the plot and building in survey number 191 of Hoodi village marked for acquisition and the owner listed as Nagappa, who was the owner of the said land as per RTC last updated in 1968. When he bought the land in 1987, Nagappa was not its owner.

Another property owner, Venkatesh Reddy, had his house built on part of his ancestral land (survey no 192/1) in 1999, but the notice now lists his great-grandfather, Dodda Tayappa Reddy, who died over half a century ago, as the owner of the land. So is the tale of many other property owners in the area. Moreover, as the road has seen extensive development on either side, the draft notification lists the status of the land as empty, as per RTCs.

"The BBMP is doing this deliberately to cut out our rights as legitimate property owners to even fair compensation. Back in 2017, BBMP wanted to widen this road by 1.5 metres on either side and served us notices for acquisition. They agreed to compensate us with ₹18,197 per sq. ft as per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) Act, 2013. But it was not pursued. Now the draft notification doesn't even name us as owners, when we have A Khata, paying taxes etc and BBMP itself had acknowledged us before," rued Mr. Chandrashekhar.

'TDR scam'

In an objection to the draft notification, the property owners raise concerns that this move by civic officials may lead to a "TDR scam" where bogus land owners are provided Transferrable Development Rights (TDR). "This notification is done in haste to benefit a few vested interests and also to repeat the TDR scam reported earlier, where officials have been accused of making wrongful gains by issuing notifications in the names of bogus land owners and thereby granting TDR illegally," the objection read.

There have been earlier instances where bogus land owners were issued TDRs, and the cases of the same are being probed by the Karnataka Lokayukta and the Directorate of Enforcement (ED). ED had raided multiple locations in the city in the last week of May in connection with the TDR scam.

Property owners have demanded that the draft notification be immediately cancelled and a fresh notification be issued with the names of existing owners listed. Property owners are also mulling over complaining to the Karnataka Lokayukta over the same.

However, Chief Civic Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao told *The Hindu* that the notification was only a draft and property owners can make their claims in response to it and their claims will be considered while issuing a final notification.

Property owners have 30 days time from June 18 to make their claims and submit objections.

'Not updating revenue records a problem'

Real estate industry insiders said that not updating revenue records in the city for decades now was a festering problem in having clear land titles. "The last city survey where RTCs were converted to urban records has only covered the old core city and contradicting ownership records is a problem in all areas beyond the core. What the civic body has done, going by revenue records, is per se legally not wrong and that is a larger problem," said a prominent builder who did not wish to be named.

Toll on NICE Road hiked effective from today

New toll on NICE Road

Section	Length in km	Car (in ₹)	Two wheelers (in ₹)
Hosur Road to Bannerghatta Road	8.74	65	30
Bannerghatta Road to Kanakapura Road	6.79	48	15
Kanakapura Road to Clover Leaf Junction	4.36	35	10
Clover Leaf Junction to Mysuru Road	3.88	33	10
Mysuru Road to Magadi Road	9.55	70	30
Magadi Road to Tumakuru Road	7.48	55	15
Link Road	8.10	75	23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Toll on the NICE Road has been hiked with effect from July 1. A public notice issued by Nandi Economic Corridor Enterprises Ltd. showed that the toll on seven stretches across the corridor has shot up in the range of ₹3 - ₹5 per stretch. Toll on some stretches have remained unchanged as well.

Toll on other access controlled corridors like the Electronics City Expressway have also been hiked with effect from July 1.

Toll on Hosur Road to Bannerghatta Road stretch has increased from ₹60 to ₹65 for cars, ₹25 to ₹30 for two-wheelers, toll on Bannerghatta Road to Kanakapura Road has increased from ₹45 to ₹48 for cars and remained the same at ₹15 for two-wheelers.

The increase in the toll for other stretches are also in a similar range for cars and two-wheelers.

Steep increase

However, the increase in toll has been steep for buses from ₹170 to ₹195 for the Hosur Road to Bannerghatta Road stretch and ₹135 to ₹155 for the Bannerghatta Road to Kanakapura Road stretch, ₹180 to ₹205 for the longest Mysuru Road to Magadi Road stretch.

Nurse loses gold chain worth ₹3 lakh to conwoman for 10 brass coins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basavanagudi police are on the lookout for an elderly conwoman who allegedly lured a 42-year-old nurse with 10 brass coins and made away with her gold chain worth ₹3 lakh.

Though the incident occurred on June 24, the victim, Manjula B.N., approached the police only on June 28 after she went to the jewellers to check about the 10 "gold coins", which she had bartered with her 39 grams gold chain. According to the complaint, Manjula was on her way to Gandhi Bazaar for shopping, in DVG road, on June 24 when she was confronted a woman aged around 60. The woman asked her help stating that she had 10 gold coins and came to sell them to buy jewels. She asked Ms. Manjula to check the weight of one of the gold coins at a shop.

The victim agreed to help and went to a nearby gold shop. The shop owners checked the gold coin and told her that it looked like gold but they can't check the authenticity since they did not have the machine. Manjula came and handed over the coin and told her the details. The woman dragged her to one of the bylanes and showed 10 more coins, and offered to give it to her in exchange of her gold chain. She also told her not to discuss this with anyone and that Manjula had to decide about the offer on the spot.

Excited by the offer, Manjula handed over her gold chain and took the gold coins. The cheating came to light two days later when she tried to sell these coins and found that she had bartered her gold chain.

Live-in partner held for murdering woman, dumping body in garbage lorry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a swift action, Chennammanakere Achukattu police cracked the case where a woman's dead body was dumped in a garbage lorry on Sunday morning, and arrested the deceased's 32-year-old live-in partner, hailing from Assam in connection with the case.

According to the police, the accused Samshuddin was living together with the victim Pushpa alias Asha, 40, at a rented house in Hulimavu for the last year-and-a-half. The duo met at a private firm, where both were working as housekeeping staff.

Pushpa was a widow from the city, with two adopted children studying in a hostel. Samshuddin was married. His wife and children stayed in Assam while he worked in the city. The two had moved in together and were in a live-in relationship, police said.

In fit of rage

According to the police, the couple used to fight regularly over domestic issues. On June 28, he came home drunk, and heated arguments ensued after the accused suspected the victim's fidelity. Police said the accused, allegedly in a fit of rage, strangled her to death. Panicking, after she died, he tried to dispose of her body.

The suspect allegedly then wrapped her body inside a blue polythene bag, put it inside another white plastic bag, carried it on his two-wheeler, and dumped it inside a parked BBMP garbage lorry beside a sports complex in Chennammanakere Achukattu.

The incident came to light at around 1.45 a.m. on June 29, when Mohamad Mustafa M., a software engineer, saw strands of human hair with blood stains with ants and flies sticking out of the bag in the lorry and alerted the police.

Analysing the CCTV camera footage, police saw the suspect riding a two-wheeler with the bag looking for a deserted place to dispose of the body.

When the police identified the deceased and tried to track down her partner, he was missing, confirming their suspicion, sources said.

He was tracked down and arrested hours later.

National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE)
Promoted By: RBI, SEBI, IRDAI & PFRDA
6th Floor, NISM Bhavan, Plot No. 82, Sector-17, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 703 Phone: 022-68265 117/101/120 Email id: info@ncfe.org.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

NCFE is inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of suitable agency to conduct a Nationwide Financial Literacy and Inclusion Survey. Interested companies may submit their response with all the necessary documents on or before **16th July 2025** by **16:00 hrs**. The RFP document may be downloaded from NCFE's website **www.ncfe.org.in/tenders**

Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published at www.ncfe.org.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
No. 3060 / Date: 25.06.2025
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works

1.	Name of the Work	:	Road Works under MMSY-TRIP & CMRL
2.	Total No. of Works	:	05 Nos. of Road Works for the year 2023-24 & 2024-25
3.	Estimated Cost of the Work	:	Varies from Rs.392.35 lakh to Rs.2007.02 lakh
4.	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore up to Rs. 20.00 Crores		A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore up to Rs.50.00 Crores		Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	c) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Crores		Super Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of Completion	:	As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details	:	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender - Online - C.C.- 14 of 2025	03.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	17.07.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	18.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated lateron

Further details can be seen from the web site : www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer,
Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.
O-345: OIPR-25082/11/0002/2526

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU
No:4, Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560025

DRC No. 852/2019 Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

Syndicate Bank, Yelahanka New Town Branch, Bengaluru- 560 064 ...Certificate Holder

Versus

M/s. Arnav Fashions & Another .. Certificate Debtor(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

To

1. M/s. Arnav Fashions, No. 4/14, 1st Floor, Tank Bund Road, Yelahanaka Old Town, Bengaluru - 560 064.
2. Sri Shyam Sudner, S/o. Sri Raghavan, No. 4/14, 1st Floor, Tank Bund Road, Yelahanaka Old Town, Bengaluru - 560 0064.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No.1460/2018** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on 26.08.2019 an amount of **Rs.32,61,020/-** (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Sixty One Thousand Twenty Only) is due against you along with interest and costs from the date of filing of O.A. till relaization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay :

a)Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b)All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **12.09.2019**

Sd/- (Deepainduvani S.), Recovery Officer- II
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I, Bengaluru

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road,
Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080 25310066
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, (Earlier Cantonment Branch), Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on 17.07.2025 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM), "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of Rs. 7,35,12,716.16 (Rupees Seven Crores Thirty Five lakhs twelve thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen rupees and Sixteen paisa only) as on 29.06.2025** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) Mrs. Nikita Patil** W/o. Mr. Siddharta Patil, H No.78, Swamy Vivekananda Layout, Sagar Road, Shimoga – 577 201. **Also at:** No.684, 5th Cross, North Block, Upkar Layout, Upkar Residency, Bangalore-560 056. **(2) Mr. Deepak** C/o Shankar Rao, S-257, 13th Main, 4th Cross, BEL Layout, Bharath Nagar, Bangalore-560091. **Also at:** No.36, 4th Cross, Income Tax Layout, BEL Layout 2nd Stage, Bharat Nagar, Bengaluru-560 091.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **16.07.2025, 5.00 P.M.**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Lot No	Description of the immovable/movable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental value at Bid
1	Residential Flat bearing no.701, comprising of 3 BHK, in 7th floor of 'PRISTINE VARA' being built in property bearing Muncipal no. 123, situated at Infantry road, Muncipal ward no. 78 of Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru and in all approximately measuring 10397 Sq.Ft. out of 12059 Sq.Ft. and bounded by: East: Road, West: Private property, North: Infantry road and South: Private property out of which 450 sq.ft. of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership having super built up area of 2500 Sq.Ft. and carpet area measuring 1665 sq.ft. and right to use common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common usage and one covered car parking space in basement bounded on: East: By Private property, West: By Private Property, North: Road, South: By Flat no. 702. Coordinates of the property **Latitude- 12.980972, Longitude- 77.601889**	₹. 294.75	₹.29.48	1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank,Ph. No. 08025310066, 9966397756, 9414400177 and 9039609346 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 30.06.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

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'Surjewala's visit is indication of increasing dissatisfaction'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has termed the visit of AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala to Bengaluru to hold consultations with disgruntled Congress leaders as an indication that the number of dissatisfied legislators in the ruling party has increased.

Speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru, BJP leader and Opposition Chief Whip in the Legislative Council N. Ravikumar said that several prominent Congress MLAs had publicly expressed displeasure over the lack of development grants for their constituencies and wondered how they could face the people without taking up any development works.

Some of them had also written to AICC leaders in this regard, he noted.

He maintained that Mr. Surjewala had rushed to Bengaluru to prevent the number of disgruntled MLAs from increasing.

Claiming that Mr. Surjewala had to rush to the State as the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister had failed to convince the upset MLAs, Mr. Ravikumar remarked: "Who knows, even AICC top leader Rahul Gandhi too may have to come to Bengaluru soon to douse the anger of the Congress MLAs."

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy complained to the Bengaluru Police Commissioner on Monday, taking exception to some Congress workers staging a protest in front of the BJP State office.

He alleged that the police had failed to initiate action against them though they had not obtained permission from the authorities concerned to stage such a protest.

Mr. Narayanaswamy accused the Congress government and Forest Minister B. Eshwar Khandre of trying to evict Dalit families near Kadugodi on the pretext that their lands belonged to the department.

Change in leadership: Kharge says only high command will take a call

All-India Congress Committee president warns legislators and party leaders against creating 'unnecessary complications' by talking out of turn on the issue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid speculations within the Karnataka Congress over a possible change of guard in the government, All-India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said that it is the party high command that has to take a call on such decisions.

Responding to a pointed query about statements from some quarters pertaining to a possible change of Chief Minister by October, Mr. Kharge said: "Any such decisions are in the hands of the party high command and nobody can say here what is going on at the level of the high command. I cannot respond to such statements here. I can only tell what is happening at the AICC level."

Warning legislators and party leaders against creating "unnecessary complications," Mr. Kharge said: "The high command has got the power to take further action, but no one should unnecessarily create problems."

Pointing out that AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala is in Bengaluru to gather the opinion of legislators and party leaders, Mr. Kharge said: "Based on his report and what feedback he gathers, we will decide what steps to take".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has said AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala is in Bengaluru to gather the opinion of legislators and party leaders. FILE PHOTO

Meetings begin

Meanwhile, amid signs of "disgruntlement" and voices of dissent within the ruling Congress, Mr. Surjewala began meetings with party legislators in Bengaluru.

According to party sources, as part of his three-day visit, Mr. Surjewala is likely to hold mostly one-on-one meetings with legislators to gather their opinions on the government's and Ministers' performance.

On Monday, he met B.R. Patil, Aland MLA, followed by separate meetings with MLAs from the Chickballapur and Kolar regions. While Mr. Patil had recently alleged bribery in public housing allotments under the Housing Department, Bharamagouda (Raju) Kage, Kagwad MLA, had hinted at resigning, citing delays in development works and fund release, and alleging that the administration had "completely collapsed." Mr. Surjewala is set to meet him on Tuesday.

Sources said the legislators who met Mr. Surjewala aired their grievances relating to the non-release of funds to their constituencies and inaccessibility of the Ministers. The MLAs were quizzed with a 10-point questionnaire by Mr. Surjewala, sources said.

'Figment of imagination'

However, terming the meetings as an organisational exercise undertaken jointly by the AICC and the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, Mr. Surjewala brushed aside speculations about a leadership change. "Any news that is being circulated in the media about leadership change is only a figment of imagination," he said.

Stating that he will hold individual meetings with party legislators, MPs, defeated candidates, and district Congress committee chiefs before meeting Ministers, the Chief Minister, and the Deputy Chief Minister, he said the purpose was to assess the status of guarantee schemes in their constituencies as the government had completed two years in office.

"We will introspect if any course correction is needed and what further transparency and accountability that can be brought about. This is a continuous and long exercise and will happen over a period of a month or month-and-a-half," he said.

Siddaramaiah and DKS show that they are one

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the Mysuru airport on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

Amid speculation around a leadership change and rift among the top leaders, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar sought to demonstrate their unity by joining hands and raising them in the presence of media at Mysuru airport on Monday.

"Aren't we together?" Mr. Siddaramaiah asked Mr. Shivakumar, who nodded his head in agreement, before the two leaders joined their hands and raised them.

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar were among a host of Ministers, including Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Minister for Animal Husbandry K. Venkatesh, and Minister for Minor Irrigation N.S. Boseraju, present at the airport before proceeding to the KRS to offer 'bagina'.

Countering allegations

The show of solidarity was aimed at countering the Opposition BJP's allegations about differences between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister and the speculation over a change of leadership in the State.

Mr. Siddaramaiah made it clear that he and Mr. Shivakumar were on good terms, and any effort by the Opposition to drive a wedge between them would not bear fruit.

Referring to Mr. Shivakumar's nickname 'bande' (rock/boulder), Mr. Siddaramaiah even said that the Congress government will remain as strong as a "bande" for its full five-year term.

He lashed out at BJP leader B. Sriramulu for predicting the fall of the Congress government and mid-term polls.

He questioned the political forecast of Mr. Sriramulu, who he said had lost elections to both the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly. "The BJP leaders are liars," he said.

When his attention was drawn to Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok's prediction that he will be replaced by Dasara, Mr. Siddaramaiah made it clear that he will inaugurate the Dasara festival this year.

With regard to All-India Congress Committee general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala's visit, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Congress leader will elicit opinions from MLAs to strengthen the party organisation.

Surjewala calls for country-wide crowd management protocols

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

He demands that accountability be fixed for the loss of lives in the Puri Rath Yatra stampede

AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala on Monday demanded that accountability be fixed for the loss of lives in the Puri Rath Yatra stampede and suggested measures like country-wide standard protocols for crowd management and the setting up of a crowd safety task force by States. He said all such horrific incidents, where lives were lost, make out a clear-cut case for country-wide standard protocols for 'crowd management', leaving the discretion to States to tap-er them to local conditions.

He said he would propose to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to set up 'State crowd safety task force' (SCSTF) for crowds of 50,000 and above, under the Home Department, comprising members of the State police, Home Guards, Disaster Management Authority, public works, health, local bodies and event organisers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client proposes to purchase the below mentioned Property from **Sri.Neeraj Dutt & Smt. Monica Dutt**, who have represented that they purchased the Schedule Property from their vendors M/s.PRESTIGE ESTATES PROJECTS LTD., in terms of a Sale Deed dated 25/09/2017, registered as Document No. 3707/2017-18 in Book-I and stored in C.D.No.SHVD258, in the Office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore. Any person or persons objecting for the proposed purchase and persons who are having any right, title, interest or ownership or any other right or claim in the Schedule Property including by way of any agreement or otherwise shall lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections if any, which are not received within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall no longer be binding. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

:SCHEDULE:

Residential Apartment bearing **No.5024,** on **Level-2, First Floor** in **Tower-5 in Building-2,** of **'PRESTIGE TRANQUILITY'**, situated at Bommenahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, and the apartment measuring **1991 Sq. Ft.**, of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement Floor along with **61.22 Sq. Mtrs.** of undivided share in the land and the Apartment bearing E-Khata No. **150200401601621179,** in the records of Mandur Village Panchayath, Bangalore East Taluk.

Sri. KUSUMA R.MUNIRAJU,
Sri. KUSUMA KAUSHIK,
Advocates,
101, "Eden Park",
No.20, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bangalore – 560 001.
Tel : 22217971 & 42000249.
Bangalore Date: 30/06/2025

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Email: swm@aurangabadmahapalika.org Helpline Number.155304/8055128080/8055505002

NIT NO: OW/CSMC/SWM/422/2025 Date: 30/06/2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF OPERATORS FOR DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION AND TRANSPORTATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE UPTO TRANSFER STATIONS PROCESSING SITES AT CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION." invites online bids through https://mahatenders.gov.in for following works from the bidders fulfilling eligibility criteria's

S.N.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender	Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.
1	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF OPERATORS FOR DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION AND TRANSPORTATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE UPTO TRANSFER STATIONS/ PROCESSING SITES AT CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	11800/-	30,00,000/-

EMD shall be payable online on the portal https://mahatenders.gov.in.
Online Tender Purchase start date : 30/06/2025
Online Tender Purchase end date : 28/07/2025 till 17:00 Hrs.
Online Bid Submission end date : 28/07/2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
Pre-bid Meeting : 10/07/2025 at 15:00 Hrs
Technical Bid Opening date : 30/07/2025 .at 11:30 Hrs.
PLACE OF OPENING BIDS :OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, E-TENDER CELL PHASE-3 BUILDING, Chhatrapti Sambhajinagar-431001
OFFICER INVITING BIDS :MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION -431001
Amendment to NIT, if any would be published on website https://mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner-5
Solid Waste Management Department
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-26/474/2025-26 Date: 30.06.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

EPC Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work mentioned below:

Name of the Work : Design & Construction of Working Women's Hostel Buildings including maintenance of buildings for 1 Year under EPC contract at Naraspura Industrial Area, Kolar Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **04.08.2025** upto **4.30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1546/NR/2025-26

Extortion: Lokayukta police seek nod to continue probe

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police on Monday sought permission from the High Court of Karnataka to continue investigation into the case of its sleuths allegedly blackmailing several public servants with the threat of possible raids.

The public are "losing faith in the anti-corruption action of the Lokayukta police wing and are writing letters raising questions about its integrity" owing to recent allegations of extortion of crores. The continuation of the investigation, which has been stayed by the court, was needed, it was argued on behalf of the Lokayukta police.

The submissions were made before a Bench of Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar during the hearing on a petition filed by IPS officer Srinath Joshi M., who was till recently serving in the Lokayukta police, regarding the notice issued to him to appear for questioning in the case.

Case background

Mr. Joshi was asked to appear for questioning as the Lokayukta police had found him having links with Ningappa G. alias Ningappa Savant. The latter had allegedly collected crores of rupees from several officers in various government departments by telling them that the Lokayukta police had sufficient information about their ill-gotten wealth and were likely to conduct raids. Ningappa was found to be frequently visiting the Lokayukta police office in Bengaluru to meet some officers, it was alleged.

The court had stayed the notice to Mr. Joshi besides staying an investigation against Ningappa, a former head constable, who has been treated as a prime accused in the case by the Lokayukta police.

Why it is essential

As the court had ordered the release of Ningappa after finding a procedural flaw in his arrest, advocate for the Lokayukta police said that investigation is essential in the case as there is information about the alleged involvement of an insider.

The allegations require a thorough investigation as the incident harmed the reputation of the Lokayukta institution, and it was pointed out that investigation material, available in a sealed cover, would disclose reasons for registering the case under the Prevention of Corruption Act as there was the alleged involvement of some public servants in the case.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

IT IS with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Nikhil Santhi on Friday, June 27, 2025, in Hyderabad. He was the cherished son of the late S. Santhi (IAS) and Paapa (Kothamani Santhi). Nikhil is survived by his wife, Haripriya (Gayathri), his loving daughter, Sunetra; and his dear sister, Nayantara. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him. For condolences, please contact 9032340101.

SIVALOKAPRAPTHI

R. SUNDARARAJAN
(12/08/1939 - 29/06/2025)
Retd Chief General Manager, BSNL
Mourned By
Family & Friends
Kottur Gardens
044-24473333

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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Government of Karnataka
Directorate of Health & Family Welfare Services,
Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560 023.
e-mail: ddehospital-hfws@karnataka.gov.in, Phone No: 080-23295623

No. Recruitment through State budget(E-1133294) Date: 30.06.2025

Inviting applications for Linux System Administrator under e-Health Program

The Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services invites suitable interested candidates for the Linux System Administrator post. For detailed information please refer to **https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in/.**

The post is temporary and purely on contractual basis up to **31-03-2026**. Applicants shall submit hard copy of application (in two sets) along with relevant self attested documents to office of Deputy Director (E-Health), 6th Floor, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, 1st cross, Bengaluru - 560023.

Last date for submission of applications: **10/07/2025 at 5.00 PM**

The candidates are also requested to bring the original documents along with the application. The applications will be verified along with originals on the same day.

The candidates who are qualified as per the required qualification and experience will be selected for interview. The interview date will be informed to the selected candidates.

Post Details:

Sl. No	Post name	Number of Vacancies	Qualification	Experience	Salary
1	Linux System Administrator	01	BE (CS/IT) /B.Tech (CS/IT)/ MCA	**1.** Linux (Redhat) **2.** Experience in windows environment (preferable) **3.** Minimum 3 Years' Experience preferably experience in the Cloud environment	Rs. 75,000/-

Sd/-
Director, Health and Family Welfare Services

DIPR/CP/1534/Zen/2025-26

SC survey: 91.84% of projected population enumerated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The survey to identify the Scheduled Caste (SC) population to provide internal reservation reached 91.84% across the State by Monday evening. Of the estimated 1.16 crore projected population, the survey had identified 1.07 crore across the State.

Stickers being pasted on houses as part of the SC population survey at R.R. Nagar in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Last day

After multiple extensions, Monday was the last day of the survey, which started on May 5.

While there was a request from the Social Welfare Department to continue the survey to identify more Scheduled Caste families in Bengaluru, the commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan was not inclined to do so, sources said.

Efforts to reach out to Mr. Nagamohan Das did not yield results by the time of going to the press.

The commission is also expected to submit its recommendations within in the next few weeks, the sources said, adding that analysis of data had already commenced.

Despite multiple extensions, the survey managed to cover just about 52% of the projected population in Bengaluru. Of the projected 13.62 lakh population of SCs in the city, the survey managed to identify 7.04 lakh by the end of Monday.

Over the last fortnight, as the survey did not make much headway in Bengaluru despite extensions, the officials have been visiting individual homes to ascertain whether they have been covered under the survey.

"Stickers are being stuck on walls of homes that have been covered already. If some homes are left out, enumerators are being asked to cover those homes. On an average just about 1,000 homes are being enumerated daily. The commission felt that there is no point in continuing with the survey," the sources said.

The commission has been tasked by the government to recommend internal reservation to 101 Scheduled Castes within the broader 17% reservation meant for SCs.

Meanwhile, the survey has achieved more than the projected population in 11 districts going above the cent per cent mark. The BBMP area remained the lowest followed by Bengaluru Urban district at 80%. As many 18 districts have reported over 90% coverage, as per data from the commission.

Pharma unit blast: Locals take charge of emergency response

Residents from the surrounding areas dig through brick to pull out bodies; experts urge government to ensure safety management in industry, pay more attention to risk mitigation

Serish Nanisetti
HYDERABAD

Nearly half an hour after a blast ripped through the manufacturing unit of Sigachi Industries in Sangareddy district of Telangana, shearing off its roof and sending the building debris shooting across a radius of a few hundred metres, the first responders were people and workers from the surrounding areas.

They dug through brick, mortar and concrete debris to pull out bodies and the injured persons. There was no ambulance on the site. At 9.48 a.m., a bystander, Sai Reddy from Isnapur, shot a video showing injured workers with bleeding wounds and torn clothes sitting in a company bus waiting to be transported to a hospital.

The bus suffered blast damage including shattered glass and its rear was crushed. As the bus pulled away, one more person was brought out of the factory with four persons holding his limbs, another was brought out in a makeshift gurney.

Ground zero: Emergency services personnel at the site after an explosion in Sigachi Industries Pvt. Ltd. in the Pashamylaram industrial area in Sangareddy district on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

Recurring nightmare

It was a replay of what happened after the blaze near Gulzar Houz in Hyderabad where good Samaritans ferried the victims out of the building into waiting stretchers. The survival rate in both the cases was low. Seventeen people died and 30 were injured in the blast on Monday.

Sigachi Industries, whose microcrystalline cellulose manufacturing unit blew up, said in its stock market filing: "The company's occupational health and safety management system has received ISO 45001:2018 certification." But on Monday morning, the workers were left to their own devices. The green board requirement for hazardous waste display was blank when the Fire Department and rescue workers reached the site of explosion leaving them clueless about what they are handling.

The slow-paced rescue effort and absence of information is linked to risk perception and value of human life, says an expert. "There is a systemic reason and a deep-rooted problem. We have low value for human life and low cost of life. By low cost of life, I mean the amount of compensation that will be paid out. In the U.S., the value of life is not high but the cost of life is high. If there is an accident the payout will be huge. The result is that the standards of safety are high," says Sagar Dhara, an environment engineer who specialises in risk analysis, putting things in perspective.

"Safety management in Indian industry and safety regulation by government regulators are tardy. Both underestimate the probability of toxic releases, fires and explosions and risk mitigation does not get the attention it deserves," says Mr. Dhara.

"We have seen many fire accidents right from Deccan Mall, Swapanlok Complex, Gulzar Houz and now yet another today near Hyderabad. It's a wake-up call for industry and regulators. Both industries and government bodies must revisit and reinforce zoning laws, permit conditions, and safety compliance frameworks – especially in fast-growing clusters like Pashamylaram," says S.P. Anchuri, a structural engineer reacting to the accident.

'Bodies were charred beyond recognition'

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

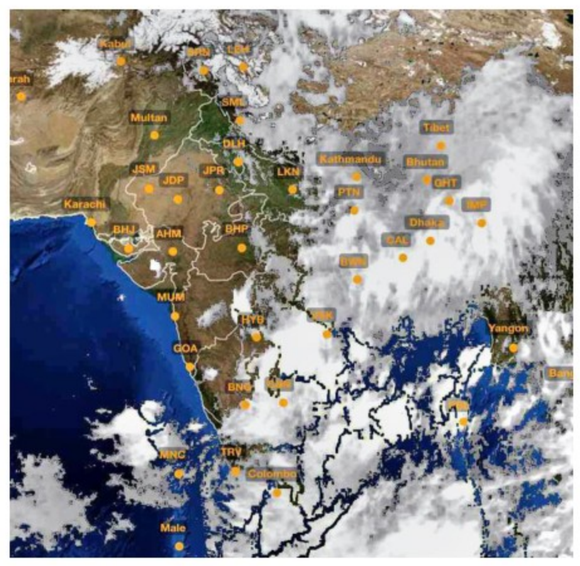
The bodies of victims of the reactor blast in Sangareddy were charred beyond recognition.

"It is a blast-related burn trauma. The skin and internal tissues are severely charred. In a chemical fire, the nature of injuries would have been different, but here the bodies have been displaced due to the explosion," said Dr. Srinivas Reddy, Hospital Superintendent, Area Hospital, Patancheru.

A stream of ambulances brought seven victims to the hospital with still others were yet to arrive by evening. The hospital has been designated as the centre for post-mortem examination of the victims.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, East Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Konkan & Goa, Mizoram, Tripura and Punjab

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.2	26.7	Kozhikode	2.0	30.0	24.4
Ahmedabad	01.3	32.5	25.5	Kurnool	3.0	32.4	25.4
Aizawl	12.7	33.4	21.1	Lucknow	8.0	32.3	25.7
Allahabad	02.0	31.3	27.0	Madurai	—	40.0	25.6
Bengaluru	—	29.5	20.3	Mangaluru	25.0	27.9	22.9
Bhopal	30.0	29.6	23.2	Mumbai	0.6	31.2	25.8
Bhubaneswar	—	29.8	25.2	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	0.6	30.2	24.0	New Delhi	9.9	30.6	25.2
Chennai	—	37.8	—	Patna	1.4	34.6	27.9
Coimbatore	—	33.0	23.2	Port Blair	68.0	30.3	23.8
Dehradun	69.0	28.4	22.2	Puducherry	—	36.2	26.0
Gangtok	7.0	21.4	18.3	Pune	1.5	29.0	24.1
Goa	16.0	31.8	25.3	Raipur	10.0	27.1	22.8
Guwahati	3.0	34.7	26.2	Ranchi	12.0	28.4	22.7
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	19.0	26.5	18.4
Hyderabad	—	33.0	23.0	Shimla	29.0	19.2	17.0
Imphal	—	29.9	24.6	Srinagar	—	34.5	22.7
Jaipur	—	34.1	26.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.7	25.2
Kochi	—	30.6	25.0	Tiruchi	—	37.5	27.4
Kohima	1.0	24.8	19.6	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	20.0	30.1	26.1	Visakhapatnam	1.0	30.0	25.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	68	6	37	40	
Bengaluru	11	3	23	34	116	
Chennai	5	7	32	42	119	
Delhi	10	23	57	57	110	
Hyderabad	4	9	86	85	91	
Kolkata	3	40	22	54	54	
Lucknow	8	37	16	43	72	
Mumbai	37	4	6	70	88	
Pune	—	19	64	15	34	
Visakhapatnam	12	76	28	49	83	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Meghalaya recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 150 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI of 9.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of my client **Mr. L.V.L.V. PRASAD,** that the property is more particularly described in the schedule hereunder is owned solely and absolute by my client in respect to all that piece and parcel of the Residential Flat bearing No.102, presently bearing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike E-Aasthi Khatha Property New PID No. 6565866977 Property No. 728/701/560/FLAT NO 102, in the Ground floor, of Sy.No.17/3 and 17/4, situated at Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring about 930 Square feet built up area, R.C.C. Roof, with One Car Parking slot in the basement, along with 406 Square Feet of undivided share.

However, during the house transit my client has lost the original General Power of Attorney provided to his father **Mr. L. Jaya Naidu** and it has been lost. Hence this public notice. Further owner specifies that the document is not utilized for any purpose.

Therefore any person(s) having any claim in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emption or under any Agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or Award or otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at the office of Ashvik Law Associates, Advocates and Solicitors, within a period of **7 days** of the publication.

SCHEDULE:

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Flat bearing No.102, presently bearing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike E-Aasthi Khatha Property New PID No. 6565866977 Property No. 728/701/560/FLAT NO 102, in the Ground floor, of Sy.No.17/3 and 17/4, situated at Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring about 930 Square feet with One Car Parking slot in the basement, along with 406 Square Feet of undivided.

Ashvik Law Associates,
Office at No 24, First Floor,
Sri Rama Mandir Road, Near to Lalbagh
Metro Station, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.
Mob : 9916590318

TIDEL PARK LTD.
(An ISO 9001/14001/45001 Company)
CIN No. U74999TN1997PLC039523
No.4, RAJIV GANDHI SALAI, TARAMANI, CHENNAI 600 113. Ph: 044 2254 0500 / 501,
E-mail: tenders@tidelpark.com, website: www.tidelpark.com

TENDER NOTICE FOR HOUSEKEEPING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

E-Tender Notice No: TIDEL/2025-2026/11 **Date : 01.07.2025**

TIDEL Park invites re-e-tender for Housekeeping and Waste Management Services of its IT Park at Pattabiram, Avadi Taluk, Tiruvallur.

For more information and participation in the e-tender, please visit the website **https:// www.tntenders.gov.in/.** The last date for online submission of duly filled tender documents is 3.00 p.m. on 31.07.2025. TIDEL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 3339/TENDER/2025 **Managing Director**

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/SAP/CW-4/T-706/2025-2026/1425 **Date: 30-06-2025**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi invites Tenders (Two Cover Systems) for the following work **Name of Work: Tender for Supply of Sports Items to UBDTCE Engineering College, Davanagere.** Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 9,98,000/-,** EMD Amount: **Rs. 25,000/-.** Last Date for Receipt of Tender: **14-07-2025 upto 2.30 PM.** Date of Opening of Tender: **15-07-2025 at 4.00 PM.** The details regarding participation in the Tendering can be accessed by logging to our VTU Website: **www.vtu.ac.in** and **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/Belagavi/564/Adverto/2025-26

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **18.07.2025 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM) "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is",** for recovery of **Rs. 3,65,06,367.44/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixty-Five Lakh Six Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty Seven Rupees and Forty Four Paise only)** as on **29.06.2025** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) Sri H J Rajesh Gowda** S/o Javare Gowda, **(2) Smt Mangala C W/o Rajesh Gowda, Both are residing at:** Muncipal No. 14 (Old No. 1778), P.I.D No.34 56-14, 9th Cross Road, 6th Main Road, RPC Layout (Hampinagar) B.B.M.P. Ward No.133, Bengaluru-560040. **(3) Kangannhalli Bettiah Ramesh,** No.1123/17, 10th D Cross, West Of Chord Road, Mahalaxmipuram, Bengaluru-560086.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **17.07.2025 - 5.00 pm.**

(₹.In Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	All that piece and parcel of bearing number 1778, situated at railway pipe line scheme , Bangalore now comes under administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward no 34-RPC Layout , New Muncipal Number 14, 9th Cross Road, Hampinagara Bengaluru with PID Number 34-56-14 Measuring East to West 60 Feet , North to south ;40 FEET Totally 2400 sq feet. Boundaries: East: Road, West: Site Number 1763, North: Site Number 1779, South: Site Number 1777.	561.30	56.13	1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9966397756, 9414400177 and 9039609346 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 30.06.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Cluny Convent High School, Jalahalli conducted their Investiture Ceremony for the academic year in the school auditorium for Middle and High School. School Captain Alona Sebastian took the oath in the presence of Principal Rev. Sr. Janet. House Captains pledged their duties before their respective Games and House Mistresses. Sr. Janet congratulated the leaders and encouraged them to uphold integrity and dedication in their roles as student leaders.

REGIONAL PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE INAUGURATED

PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya MEG & Centre, Bengaluru hosted the inaugural ceremony of the Regional Principals' Conference with solemnity and enthusiasm. Chief Guest Shri Dharmendra Patle, Deputy Commissioner, KVS RO Bengaluru, was welcomed with a Guard of Honour and Purna Kumbha ritual. Principal Shri Lokesh Bihari Sharma delivered the welcome address. Kendriya Vidyalayas were felicitated for academic excellence, and Shri Patle's keynote stressed academic achievement and collaborative leadership. The three-day conference focuses on NEP 2020 implementation, tech-enabled learning, teacher training, and administrative efficiency. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. V. Subbalakshmi.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

NPS, Yelahanka held their Investiture Ceremony for the academic year in the presence of the Principal, Vice Principal, faculty, and students. The newly elected Student Council members marched in sync with the school band and were conferred with sashes and badges. They took a solemn oath to serve with integrity and dedication. The Principal addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of leadership, teamwork, and service. She encouraged students to lead by example and uphold the school's core values. The event concluded with the national anthem and a strong sense of pride and inspiration.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

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CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
4, Raja S.C.Mullick Road, Kolkata – 700032

Advt. No. R&C/582/2025; Vacancy Code : 5822501

A walk-in-interview for engagement of **JRF(GATE)** will be held by CSIR-IICB at 4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Kolkata – 32, on **22.07.2025 from 9:30 a.m.** For details log on to our website **www.career.iicb.res.in**

Controller of Administration

UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)

Tender Notice

Tender Ref. No: UPMSCL/Drugs-233/08 **Dated: 27-06-2025**

E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF LARVICIDE TO UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED

Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of Bacillus Thuringiensis israelensis, var israelensis, 5% AS (BTI) to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender Documents are made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is **18th July 2025 up to 15:00 Hrs.**

Managing Director
UPMSCL Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

JAYANAGAR 9TH BLOCK BRANCH
No. 1010, Jayanagar 9th Block Branch, 26th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore.
Email: ubin0910465@unionbankofindia.bank; Ph. No.: 9137110462

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Depost are also mentioned hereunder:

Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: Borrower: Mr. S Kannaiah S/o K Venkataswamy, No. 616, 5th Cross, 1st Floor, 2nd Block, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560050. **Also at:** #2069, 8th Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560010. **Co-Applicant: Ms. Kavitha K W/o Sri S Kannaiah,** No. 616, 5th Cross, 1st Floor, 2nd Block, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560050. **Also at:** #2069, 8th Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560010.

Amount due: Rs.22,98,257.51/- as on **30.08.2024** plus interest, costs and incidental charges.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that Piece and Parcel of Property bearing New Municipal No 745/A, PID No 54-302-745/A,formed and developed by Kempegowda HBCS LTD Carved Out of Sy. No 101/1, 101/3, 102, 105/2, 107/3, 108/1 and 108/2 Situated at Kathriguppe Village, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore South Taluk and measuring East to West 24 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in all measuring 960 Sq Ft and Bounded on: **East by:** Site No 746, **West By:** Site No 745, **North by:** Site No 748 and **South By:** Road and Residential Building constructed thereon.

Reserve Price: 1,06,78,500/-
(Rupees One Crore Six Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs. 10,67,850/-
(Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Only)
Date and time of E-Auction: 15-07-2025 between 12:00 P.M. to 05:00 PM
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last Date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction
E-Auction website: https://baanknet.com

For Details terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com**
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://baanknet.com**
For auction related queries e-mail to **ubin0910465@unionbankofindia.bank** or contact No. **9137110462,** No. 1010, Jayanagar 9th Block Branch, 26th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore

Date : 27.06.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

Roll crunch

The ECI's rushed intensive electoral revision in Bihar risks voter exclusion

Elections in India feature a larger number of voters from among the poor and marginalised sections when compared to the West, offering them the best outlet to register their views while choosing their representatives. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has done yeoman work in increasing voter participation by easing the registration process, allowing the poor in even less developed States to vote enthusiastically. On Saturday, the ECI initiated a "Special Intensive Revision" of electoral rolls in Bihar ahead of Assembly elections scheduled in October. The objective of ensuring an accurate electoral roll is constitutionally sound as this includes adding all eligible citizens and eliminating ineligible voters such as the dead, those who have shifted and also non-citizens. However, the hurried timeline and the documentation requirements for verification raise serious concerns about the potential exclusion of genuine voters. The ECI has said that Bihar's Draft Electoral Rolls, as of January 1, 2025, stand at close to 7.96 crore electors. It has also said that 4.96 crore individuals, who were on the 2003 electoral roll, will not need to submit fresh documents, and for their children, only an extract of the 2003 roll can serve as proof for their parents. However, the figure from 2003 is not static. A significant number has either passed away or migrated. *The Hindu*'s Data Point estimates this attrition to be around 1.8 crore. Thus, the number of living, resident electors from the 2003 list eligible for simplified verification is closer to 3.16 crore. Consequently, the actual figure of those who need to provide fresh documents for enrolment would be closer to 4.74 crore.

These individuals would have to prove their elector status within a month when the draft roll is prepared. Their claims and objections will have to be filed within a month after that, which is too short a period. The challenge is compounded by the ECI's illustrative list of 11 acceptable documents. Bihar has historically lagged in birth registration, with very few in possession of birth certificates. The possession of other "official" documents such as matriculation certificates and government-issued IDs also remain low among a large section of the population, especially the poor and the less educated. The exclusion of widely available documents such as Aadhaar or current ration cards is also puzzling as these are more accessible to Bihar's marginalised communities. Considering the enormity of the exercise, the ECI should reconsider its approach. Such an intensive revision should be conducted over a much extended period, and for all States, and completed before the 2029 general election, rather than rushing it through before the Assembly election. The integrity of the electoral process demands caution and time, especially when dealing with the fundamental right to vote.

Sheer negligence

India's shameful VIP culture has no place in public events

There have been nine stampedes in India in the past 12 months, with six of them at religious gatherings. This includes the most recent one, at the storied Jagannath temple's annual chariot procession in Puri, Odisha, early on June 29. Three people were killed and more than 50 injured. Acknowledging "negligence "and "security lapses", the State government was swift to order a probe. The centuries-old chariot procession is an annual and month-long event between June and July. But the heart of the festival is the nine-day chariot procession, or Rath Yatra, when Lord Jagannath travels with his two siblings, Balabhadra and Subhadra, to their aunt Gundicha's home. About half a million devotees visit the three-kilometre radius around the temple. While a full investigation is pending, initial reports suggest that tell-tale signs of a stampede were overlooked.

On the first day of the yatra, officials paused the drawing of Lord Jagannath's chariot around 7.45 p.m. because of an 'unprecedented rush', allowing only Balabhadra's and Subhadra's chariots to move. The Jagannath chariot was moved symbolically and deferred till early on Saturday. In the intervening hours, about 750 devotees were hospitalised due to heat, dehydration, and crowd stress. Eyewitnesses reported that a common exit gate was closed to create a separate "VIP entry," forcing everyday pilgrims to exit through the same entrance path that was already congested. A single corridor that was being used for the flow in both directions resulted in more congestion, amplifying crowd pressure. The delayed arrival of the chariot also caused a bottleneck outside the Gundicha temple just before dawn. With exhausted pilgrims, merged traffic flows and no exit access, the stage was set for a tragedy. Further, trucks with ritual materials entered this zone at 4.20 a.m. This unexpected movement shattered stalls, toppled devotees and triggered panic. This daily has highlighted India's tawdry record in crowd management, at religious gatherings, celebrity-studded events, political rallies or post sporting festivities. Given that the climate discourse is at front and centre globally, providing thermal comfort, hydration facilities and taking precautions to shield women, children and the elderly from the heat especially during peak summer should have been woven into the conduct of the rath yatra years ago. As for VIPs, one way is to restrict any privileged entry and to provide access at the beginning or at the end of festivities, allowing other visitors predictable and barrier-free access. But the best way is to end India's entrenched VIP culture.

In a perilous world, India must read the tea leaves well

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

India's foreign policy is currently facing an existential crisis. The second term of the Trump administration, which had previously been welcomed by India, has upset India's carefully crafted foreign policy. The recent India-Pakistan conflict should also be viewed as a 'wakeup call'. As details of the extent of China's military connections to Pakistan and of equipment transfer tumble out, India must take notice.

Next to the China-Pakistan nexus in the region, it is India's approach to events in West Asia and the Israel-Iran conflict that clearly need a relook. India has tried, not very successfully, to sit on the fence as far as the current Israel-Iran war is concerned, but it probably needs to think through what is best in its interest. The stakes have become higher with the United States involving itself directly in the Israel-Iran conflict, which saw it using, for the first time, its GBU-57 bunker buster bomb to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz and another embedded nuclear site. Neutrality is no longer an option, and despite the announcement of a ceasefire, the possibility of an all-out war is a distinct possibility.

A term that is no longer taboo

With the use of the GBU-57 precision guided bombs, the conflict in West Asia has clearly attained a new dimension. The dreaded 'N word' is no longer taboo. Hence, the question that India needs to answer is whether it can continue to keep up its stance of neutrality. The situation is turning increasingly complex and it is no longer a mere wakeup call for India and countries across the globe. The threat has become all too real.

It may be too far-fetched to assert that a neutral India is 'friendless' in the world of today. A look at the state of affairs that concerns India would suggest, however, that this could well become the case – and that it could continue for quite some time in the future. India's professed leadership of the Global South and its patronage of nations across West Asia brought it no dividends during the recent India-Pakistan conflict. Instead, India has since been reminded – if this was needed – that it confronts two hostile nuclear powers in its neighbourhood, both of whom would have no moral compunctions in utilising nuclear weapons, if the opportunity arose. Hence, India cannot, any longer, afford to believe that its current policies are bearing fruit. A correct reading of 'the tea leaves' as they exist at present is essential for India's present and its future.

Donald Trump's 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) policies are today adversely impacting India at levels other than just trade and economics. The U.S. President's claims to have effected a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, following the short India-Pakistan conflict in May – something that India contradicts, but which Pakistan's 'Maximum Leader' Field Marshal Asim Munir, has publicly endorsed – sets India on a collision course with the U.S. President and his Administration. Mr. Trump's lunch for Field Marshal Munir and the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose not to respond to Mr, Trump's invitation to visit Washington (while returning from the G-7 meeting in Canada), is again likely to be played up by elements in the U.S. and across the world who favour Pakistan against India.

> A changing world does not seem to favour India's long-held policy prescriptions; it would be wise for New Delhi to prepare for eventualities of every kind

The Israel-Iran conflict is yet another situation in which India finds itself as an 'outlier'. 'Neutrality', in the compelling circumstances of today, is out of sync with reality as also the situation on the ground. India's tilt towards Israel in recent times, it would appear, has become something of an albatross around India's neck. India's Iran policy today has few takers beyond India's borders. Its policy of maintaining an equidistance between Israel and Iran has proved to be of little use in so far as extolling the virtues of non-alignment are concerned.

Admittedly, we live in perilous times. Today's situation does not seem to favour India's long-held policy prescriptions. Israel's premeditated attack on Iran's nuclear sites – aided by the U.S. dropping bunker buster bombs – has seen little condemnation across the world. Iran, which needed a strong voice of support like that of India's to counter the narrative of Israel, the U.S. and the West, will find little comfort in India's 'calls for restraint' on all sides. India's support and voice, based on its moral strength, would have mattered were it seen to support the victim of the attack, rather than maintain an equidistance between Israel and Iran.

It is true that in today's world, it is fashionable to denigrate consensus in favour of 'might'. For instance, at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore in May, the emphasis seemed to be on the criticality of 'hard power' as against 'soft power', with dialogue taking a back seat. The stage was set by the U.S. Secretary of Defence, Pete Hegseth, who declared that a 'free and open Indo-Pacific' was a sine qua non for peace in the region, and that China's 'calls for hegemony' in Asia were untenable. He reminded the Singapore audience that 'any unilateral attempt to change the status-quo in the South China Sea and the First Island Chain by force or coercion is unacceptable'. This disturbed the normally placid atmosphere seen at the Shangri-La Dialogue, and produced a strong repartee from the Chinese delegate present. Subsequently, a Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman warned that the 'US must never play with fire on the Taiwan question'.

What India needs to do

Hence, it would be wise in the circumstances for India to prepare for future eventualities of every kind. To start with, there needs to be a detailed study of the growing China-Pakistan military connection as the India-Pakistan conflict in May this year has merely hit the 'pause button'. More importantly, India must try and better understand how deeply China's military capabilities have been meshed with those of Pakistan, the critical role being played today by Chinese weaponry in Pakistan's defence plans, and how Pakistan has managed to integrate Chinese systems with its own defence plans and procedures, including its claims of being able to lock on to hostile targets to counter an attack. Additionally, India needs more details regarding the numbers of J-10Cs and JF-17 fighters in Pakistan's inventory.

As a part of its preparations for a future conflict, India would also do well to examine whether it has the necessary wherewithal for conflicts of longer durations. The United Kingdom, for instance, recently undertook an in-depth study of its defence capabilities which helped highlight areas of critical weakness, including that of ammunition stockpiles, the need to set up a new National Armament System, and a new Cyber and Electromagnetic Command to oversee networks and electronic warfare. For India to prepare for a two front war, it should, apart from learning lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war, refine its policies on many such aspects as well. Undoubtedly, Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be a national priority. Aspects such as electro-magnetic manoeuvres to neutralise drones, loitering munitions and glide bombs that dominate the skies today in periods of conflict, should again have high priority.

China's white paper

While India remains preoccupied with Pakistan, it would also do well to read the fine print in China's recently published white paper on "National Security in the 'New Era'". This has a clear enunciation of Chinese strategic thinking today and mentions that 'development and security are like two wings of one body'. The white paper reads like a 'testament' on the importance of maintaining scientific and technological security at all times, and the importance of ensuring maintainability of supply chains. It also has a mention of the situation prevalent in the areas neighbouring China, underscoring the fact that these pose threats to China's borders.

To conclude, it might bear mentioning that if China intends to reinforce its strategic objectives in Asia, specially in South Asia, the criticality of its alliance with Pakistan to encircle India must not be underestimated. Also at a time, when the 'N word' is being openly bandied about, India must reckon with the fact that China has more than a 3:1 advantage over India in terms of deploying nuclear warheads, and an almost 5:1 advantage if the nuclear warheads of China and Pakistan are combined.

GST reform and unfinished business in tobacco control

Rijo M. John

is a health economist and Adjunct Professor at the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi, Kerala

As India marks eight years since the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2017, it is worth reflecting on this landmark reform. GST replaced a multiplicity of indirect taxes such as Value Added Tax (VAT), excise duties, and service tax, establishing a unified national market under the "One Nation, One Tax" framework. The reform harmonised tax rates across States, enhanced ease of doing business, and facilitated greater economic integration. Economically, GST has been a consistent contributor to national revenue. Gross GST collections in 2024-25 reached a record ₹22.08 lakh crore, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 9.4%.

Beyond revenue generation, GST has advanced economic efficiency. The elimination of cascading taxes through the input tax credit system has reduced production costs, benefiting both businesses and consumers. Compliance has improved through digitised processes, which include e-way bills, simplifying tax administration and curbing evasion. The removal of inter-State checkpoints has enhanced logistics efficiency, cutting transportation time by 20% in some cases and reducing costs.

Faultlines in taxation

However, this progress is accompanied by notable shortcomings, particularly in the realm of public health, specifically tobacco taxation. Tobacco use continues to pose a severe public health threat in India, causing over 3,500 deaths daily and incurring an economic burden of ₹2,340 billion annually (1.4% of GDP in 2017)—a figure far exceeding the ₹551 billion GST revenue generated from tobacco annually, on average, in the past five years. India remains the second-largest consumer of tobacco globally, with 28.6% of adults and 8.5% of students between the ages of 13 to 15 years using tobacco in some form.

Taxation is globally recognised as one of the most effective instruments to reduce tobacco use. Yet, since the introduction of GST, there have been no significant tax increases on tobacco products. This stands in stark contrast to the pre-GST period (2009-17), when regular increases in excise and VAT contributed to a 17% decline in tobacco use prevalence. A stagnation in tax, Post-GST, increases risks, undermining past public health gains due to the increasing affordability of tobacco products (as pointed out in many studies). Currently, the overall tax burden on tobacco products remains well below the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation of 75% of the retail price: 22% for bidis, 54% for cigarettes, and 65% for smokeless tobacco.

> A rate rationalisation exercise must address the shortcomings in the taxation of tobacco products, keeping in mind economic and public health outcomes

A structural issue

A critical structural issue is the GST's heavy reliance on ad valorem taxes. While GST is inherently ad valorem, evidence shows that specific excise taxes – levied as a fixed amount per unit – are more effective in reducing the consumption of harmful products, as they are less susceptible to price manipulation by the industry. Since the implementation of GST, the share of central excise duties in total tobacco taxes has dropped significantly: from 54% to 8% for cigarettes, 17% to 1% for bidis, and 59% to 11% for smokeless tobacco. In contrast, many countries with VAT or GST regimes impose additional specific excise taxes on tobacco to achieve public health objectives. In India, inconsistencies across products exacerbate the problem. Although cigarettes represent only 15% of tobacco users, they contribute over 80% of tax revenue. Bidis, used predominantly by low-income populations, remain under-taxed. Notably, bidis, despite being the most widely consumed smoked tobacco product and as harmful as cigarettes, are not even subject to the GST compensation cess. This omission lacks any evidence-based public health justification.

An urgent concern is the potential expiration of the GST compensation cess in March 2026, which constitutes a substantial share of total tobacco taxes (nearly 50% for cigarettes). Its removal would significantly reduce tax burdens and render tobacco products more affordable, undermining health policy objectives.

Raising GST rates on tobacco products to the peak rate of 40%, as permitted in the GST law, alongside the enhancement of specific excise taxes, would be a very effective dual strategy. A mixed tax structure that combines ad valorem and specific components has demonstrated greater efficacy in both reducing consumption and increasing revenues.

The illicit trade

The tobacco industry frequently argues that higher taxes drive illicit trade. However, independent peer-reviewed studies estimate that illicit cigarettes constitute only 2.7% to 6.6% of the market in India – substantially lower than the industry's claim of 25%. Research shows that tax increases have a limited effect on illicit trade. Instead, governance quality, regulatory strength and enforcement capacity are more decisive factors. India has ratified the World Health Organization (WHO) Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and must now prioritize its implementation to prevent leakages.

As the GST Council undertakes deliberations on rate rationalisation and structural reform, it is imperative that public health considerations are given due priority. The Parliamentary Standing Committee, in its 139th Report (September 2022), highlighted that tobacco products in India remain among the most affordable globally and has stressed the critical need to enhance taxation on these products. Increasing GST rates to the statutory peak of 40%, alongside a substantial increase in specific excise duties, would serve the dual objectives of reducing the health and economic burden associated with tobacco use and strengthening fiscal consolidation. Such a strategy would reaffirm India's commitment to its public health objectives while aligning with its broader developmental goals. As the GST completes eight years since its enactment, the ongoing rate rationalisation exercise offers a timely opportunity to rectify existing shortcomings in the taxation of tobacco products. Addressing this issue would represent a meaningful advancement in the evolution of the GST framework and reinforce its role as a tool for promoting both fiscal and public health objectives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safety is not a priority

The statistic that India is arguably the country with the highest number of stampedes is nothing to be proud about (Front page, June 30). Whether it be the stampede on Sunday during the Rath Yatra in Puri or the promotional event for the film, *Pushpa 2,* or the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad in 2013, or in Sabarimala in 2011, they all point to a recurring pattern of negligence, mismanagement and inadequate planning. That such accidents recur, despite clear guidelines by the National Disaster Management Authority, implies that the authorities in India do not prioritise crowd safety with actionable measures. Nor do they learn from such ghastly incidents. Officials need to take a serious look at ensuring the safety of India's citizens.

Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

In a snippet, "Ahead of Amarnath Yatra, J&K L-G reviews arrangements" ('News' page – "In Brief", June 29, 2025), the sitting Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was wrongly referred to as *former Chief Minister*.

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Why the prestige of doctors is eroding

C. Aravinda

Academic and public health physician. Views are personal

Every July 1st, India observes National Doctor's Day, to honour the legacy of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy. However, in recent years, this commemoration has become overshadowed by more visible policy events such as the roll-out of the Goods and Services Tax in 2017 and the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in 2024. This erosion of a symbolic space reserved for doctors is symptomatic of a deeper shift: a slow and complex erosion of the moral authority, public trust, and professional respect that physicians firmly held.

Epidemiological transition

This decline is not due to a failure of medicine; rather, it is due to its extraordinary success. To understand this shift, we must look beyond day-to-day grievances and dive deep into what public health scholar A. Omran (1971) described as the 'epidemiological transition'. He describes how societies evolve in their disease patterns. As populations move from poverty to prosperity, the dominant health threats shift from infectious diseases and nutritional deficiencies to chronic, non-communicable diseases and eventually to a complex coexistence of both. Superimposed on this is the demographic transition, marked by falling birth and death rates, ageing populations, and shrinking family units. Together, these transitions radically redefine both the public's expectation of medicine and the role of doctors.

In medieval times, the social role of the healer was mediated not by scientific inquiry but by moral authority, religious education, and ritual purity. Medical advice was as likely to come from clergy or spiritual figures as from trained physicians. That changed rapidly with the dawn of scientific breakthroughs during the Industrial Revolution. From Pasteur's germ theory to Koch's postulates and from the discovery of anaesthesia to the isolation of penicillin, medicine acquired a cloak of rationality and predictability. Before the Victorian era, surgeons had the same social standing as barbers. They were elevated to professional status when the knife, supported by chloroform and antisepsis, began to promise not agony but a cure. These were the fruits of an age driven by the curiosity of lone experimenters; public laboratories; and academic idealism. After these discoveries, doctors were seen as saviours and miracle workers, wielding tools that bent nature. But this golden era, too, was transitional.

Science becomes commerce

Stage four of the epidemiological transition (currently ongoing in many countries) is marked by delayed degenerative diseases. It has brought about a longer life but not a necessarily better one. The quality of life deteriorates even as costs escalate. In stage five, with emerging and re-emerging diseases (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), uncertainty rules again. Today, as India (and the world) faces this dual burden of infectious and chronic diseases, the expectations from medicine are more fraught than ever. Dengue persists alongside diabetes. Tuberculosis coexists with obesity-related disorders. While infections are largely controllable (at a cost), chronic diseases are relentless. The treatment of hypertension, depression, or autoimmune illnesses offers no clear endpoint.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution; instead, we are handed complex risk algorithms, lifestyle prescriptions that defy modern abundance, and therapies that offer more probability than certainty. In this climate, doctors are no longer seen as custodians of miraculous cures but as gatekeepers of advice that is often unaffordable, frequently incomprehensible, and occasionally ineffective. Statistics have replaced certainty. Protocols have replaced personalisation. A physician today must recommend less salt, less screen time, and less red meat, which contradicts the freedoms of the modern consumer life. It is hard to respect the messenger when the message feels like moral policing.

As the world faces a dual burden of infectious and chronic diseases, the expectations from medicine are more fraught than ever

Caught in the crossfire

What worsens this fracture of public trust is that the discoveries once driven by individual scientific curiosity have become institutionalised commerce. The fruits of medicine are no longer shaped by academic purity but monetised by conglomerates, wrapped in patents, and rationed as commercial products. What began as a public good has become a market offering. Doctors serve as foot soldiers in an industrial healthcare complex, absorbing public frustration that cannot reach corporations or policymakers.

Lifestyle changes, now central to chronic disease care, require moral discipline that institutions cannot enforce. Political freedom and personal autonomy often clash with behavioural mandates. Obesity developed through constant ordering from food delivery apps, and insomnia developed through endless scrolling on social media, cannot be fixed by medicine. Doctors are left prescribing restraint in an age of indulgence and are expected to deliver miracle outcomes in a world where both disease and cure are entangled in sociopolitical contradictions beyond their control.

Modern medicine no longer offers the clarity or fairness the public expects. Until a new Pasteurian-like breakthrough emerges for treating non-communicable and degenerative diseases, doctors, caught between being healers, technicians, and scapegoats, must navigate a fractured moral landscape. Clinical encounters now resemble negotiations, with even advice met with suspicion. Doctors are not failing; they are operating in a world where societal expectations outpace what medicine can reliably deliver.

Janaki, Zumba, and everything in between

Fundamentalist voices from various religious groups are getting louder

STATE OF PLAY

S.R. Praveen
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Navigating the cultural landscape these days is akin to treading a minefield. It is becoming evident that the most innocuous creative expressions can blow up to become heated controversies. Over the past week in Kerala, everything from a character named Janaki in a film to Zumba dance performances by school students has angered some section or the other. Religion happens to be the common thread running through most of these controversies.

What's in a name?

Though the regional office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) cleared the film *Janaki v/s State of Kerala* starring Union Minister Suresh Gopi, the CBFC headquarters in Mumbai demanded a change in the title as well as of the name of the titular character, Janaki, which is another name for goddess Sita. They told the filmmakers through unofficial channels that a survivor of sexual violence cannot be named after Sita. The makers of another film, *Token Number*, were also forced to change the name of a character from Janaki to Jayanthi after the Board objected to a character with that name having a relationship with a man named Abraham.

Given such arbitrary directives, it will likely become impossible to use a common name in a film's title or for a character. These instances show a disturbing tendency of the CBFC taking over the duties of the 'hurt sentiments' group and widening the scope of censorship. The Kerala High Court has pulled up the CBFC,

while film bodies in Kerala are up in arms against the body.

Questioning moral values

While these two controversies raged on, joyful videos of school students of all ages dancing together in Zumba classes filled social media timelines in the State. The Kerala government launched Zumba sessions in schools and colleges this academic year as a part of its efforts to reduce stress and channelise the interests and energy of students away from drugs into positive alternatives.

However, even this made a section of people unhappy. Ultra conservative Islamist groups including Wisdom Islamic Organisation and the Sunni Yuvajana Sangham, the youth wing of the Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama, opposed the plan, branding the aerobic dance workout practice as a degradation of "moral values" and a violation of Islamic religious values. Some clerics claimed that students will be made to wear "skimpy clothes" while performing Zumba even though the students were seen wearing their school uniforms in all the videos on social media.

Such opposition to a relaxing workout revealed the misogyny of the clerics as well as their fears about the intermingling of genders. In the past, citing religious reasons, some of these Islamic organisations have opposed the government's decision to introduce a gender-neutral uniform in schools and to do away with separate benches for girls and boys.

The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) government has refused to back down on its Zumba plan. The General Education Minister, V. Sivankutty, said that the stand taken by these groups will only help fuel majority communalism. The CPI(M) General Secretary, M.A. Baby, who as the State Education Minister in 2008 faced a controversy over a rationalist lesson in a textbook, said that religious organisations can comment on educational issues, but they cannot dictate terms.

Curiously, the Bharatiya Vichara Kendram, a Sangh Parivar think tank, also criticised the State government for promoting "foreign practices" such as Zumba. It claimed that the government's agenda was to sideline yoga trainers.

Beyond the cultural sphere, the campaigns of orthodox Islamic groups against vaccination have had dire consequences. Two days ago, a one-year-old child died of jaundice in Malappuram after his parents, both practitioners of alternative medicine, allegedly denied him vaccination and treatment. They also buried the child in mysterious circumstances.

Worrying trend

In Kerala, there are an increasing number of fundamentalist voices from different sides of the religious spectrum. Their narrow diktats on creative expressions as well as on issues that are beyond the boundaries of their understanding on religion does not augur well for a State that takes pride in its general progressive, secular outlook. The government and civil society need to push back with all vigour to isolate such intolerant voices.

Voter verification drive in Bihar: too little time, too many hurdles

Within a month, a staggering 4.76 crore people will have to prove their citizenship in order to vote in the next election

DATA POINT

Rahul Shastri

The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently issued an order for holding Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls for Bihar. This exercise will then be carried out in all the States. The order is antithetical to the tradition of this august institution. From the first election held in independent India, the ECI has played a heroic role in seeding democracy through active voter enrolment and protection of the right to vote of the disadvantaged.

Though the ECI is facing a credibility crisis of late, this initiative is surprisingly radical. And unless it is substantially modified, it will disproportionately disenfranchise the poor and deprived electors irrespective of their party preference. We will leave the thorny questions of legality to the experts and just focus on the scale of the venture and its practicability within the proposed timeline.

As per the directive, all individuals who have not been featured in the electoral rolls of 2003 need to prove their citizenship as per the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003, and Rules. Broadly, if the 2003 electoral roll features nearly all individuals who were 18 years or older then, these individuals, now 40 years and older, get a direct entry into the proposed electoral roll. How many then have to go through the hoops?

The affected population

In 2020, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare published a report, Population Projections for India and States 2011-36. The report estimates the current voting age population of Bihar to be 8.08 crore. About 59% of this population (4.76 crore individuals) is 40 years old and under. The ECI, from July 1 to July 31, requires this staggering number to prove citizenship.

In its press note of June 28, the ECI stated that the electorate count in Bihar is 7.9 crore. As per the ECI, as "4.96 crore of the 7.9 crore already have their names in the last intensive revision of electoral rolls" in 2003, just 2.94 crore individuals will need to submit their eligibility documents.

This is clearly an oversight. The electoral roll of 2003 for Bihar did have around 4.96 crore individuals. By our calculations from the reports of the Sample Registration System, around 1.1 crore of them are dead. The ECI has taken them off the rolls.

Plus, there is sizeable number of people who have permanently migrated out of Bihar. As per a paper by Pinak Sarkar, Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, deriving from the Census, 93 lakh people permanently migrated out of Bihar between 2001 and 2011. Even if migration has slowed a bit after 2011, an average of 8 lakh out-migrants a year from Bihar in the period 2003-24 would mean a total of 1.76 crore out-migrants.

If the share of those over 18 years of age in the 1.76 crore group is the same as the proportion in the Bihar population, this amounts to 94 lakh voters who have migrated out of Bihar permanently. If even one fourth of them remain electors in Bihar, 70 lakh are no longer electors in Bihar and are voting elsewhere in India. The ECI would have taken them off the Bihar electoral rolls.

Hence, of the 4.96 crore electors in the 2003 list, if we remove those who are dead and those who have migrated from Bihar permanently, around 3.16 crore electors remain in the present count of Bihar's electorate. These 3.16 crore people who were also on the 2003 list do not need to submit any eligibility documents. The rest of the 4.74 crore individuals (7.9 crore-3.16 crore) need to submit their documents.

This figure is very similar to our 4.76 crore estimate based on population projections. The ECI requires this staggering magnitude to prove its eligibility to vote within a month.

Proof of citizenship

What is this proof of eligibility? The ECI says a copy of one document in a list of 11 needs to be presented. Seems simple? Perhaps for some other State, but certainly not for a document-scarce State such as Bihar. Let us list the 11 documents and look at the data that is publicly available for our demographic of 18-40 years.

The first is identity card/pension card of State government/Central government/public sector undertaking. As per the 2022 caste census, 20.47 lakh Biharis have government jobs. Fewer than half of them will be from the 18-40 age group and pertain to less than 2% of this group.

The second is an identity card issued before July 1, 1987. This is not applicable.

The third is a birth certificate. As per the National Family Health Survey-3, 2.8% of Bihar's population born between 2001 and 2005 possess a birth certificate. Much of our age group of interest was born before 2001, so a negligible proportion possesses this document.

The fourth is a passport. Around 2.4% of Bihar's population possess a passport. The share would be higher in the 20-40 age group but would not reach double digits.

The fifth is a matriculation certificate. Deriving from the National Family Health Survey-2 and National Family Health Survey-5, around 45-50% of 18-40-year-olds are matriculate. As of 2019-20, there is a 10% point gap overall between male matriculates and female matriculates: females are at a definite disadvantage

The sixth is domicile. In-migrants in Bihar are an insignificant proportion of the population.

The seventh is a forest rights certificate. The share of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Bihar is 1.3%, according to the 2011 Census. Of them, those living in forests form a much lower share.

The eighth is an Other Backward Classes (OBC)/Scheduled Castes (SC)/ST certificate. Data from the India Human Development Survey-2, analysed by Professor Ashwini Deshpande and Rajesh Ramachandran in *The India Forum,* notes that around 20% of SCs, 18% of OBCs, and 38% STs had a caste certificate. Considering that almost no upper castes possess caste certificates, around 16% of Biharis possessed a caste certificate in 2011-12 when this survey was conducted. Those eligible individuals who are 30-40 years of age today would already have obtained a caste certificate by 2012 had they wished; even if the rest obtain caste certificates in a higher proportion, overall not more than one in four households are likely to possess this document.

The ninth is the National Register of Citizens. This is applicable solely to Assam.

The tenth is the family register. This is also not applicable to Bihar.

The last is a land/house allotment certificate by the government. There is no data available on land allotment certificates. House allotment certificates seem applicable to government employees availing government housing. No such certificate is given to beneficiaries of schemes such as the Pradhan Mantra Gram Awas Yojana.

Most people without a matriculation certificate are unlikely to apply for a passport, a government job, or a caste certificate. By the ECI's new rule, the matriculation certificate has effectively become the main eligibility proof for voters aged 18 to 40. This shifts us from adult franchise to a system that favours only matriculates. As a result, around 2.4 crore-2.6 crore people who had to leave school due to poverty may now be left out of the voters' list.

The final number of people disenfranchised will be even larger than this if we add the over 40-year-olds who have been missed in the 2003 voters' list and those over 40 whose present names don't match with those in the 2003 voting list. These hundreds of lakhs of people will lose their constitutional right to vote not because they are illegal migrants but because they are illegible to a State which lacked the capacity to issue birth certificates, render basic education, or issue caste certificates to the deprived castes. A State cannot penalise so many people for its own shortcomings.

Why not Aadhaar?

This also begs a simple question: if the ECI allows for OBC/SC/ST certificates, why is Aadhaar not allowed if the proof of identity document for a caste certificate is Aadhaar? It should not be that Aadhaar's major flaw is that it is more available – around 9/10th of the Bihar population possess it. Does the ECI believe that it has issued voter cards to non-citizens? Also, why not allow ration cards?

Yet, even if the list of allowable documents is modified to be more inclusive, the project will disenfranchise people or become a bureaucratic waste because of the sheer paucity of time.

Let us suppose that all the 4.76 crore who are asked to submit documents do so: that is, on an average, 1.95 lakh per constituency. Each constituency has one electoral registration officer (ERO) who has numerous other important duties. (The ECI website has no information on there being any assistant EROs in Bihar.) In the 62 days between July 1 and August 31, they have to scrutinise almost 2 lakh applications, prepare a draft roll, issue a notice, and launch a suo moto enquiry to each elector whose eligibility is doubted. That is a superhuman task.

Rahul Shastri is a researcher associated with Bharat Jodo Abhiyan

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 1, 1975

Detention without assigning grounds: ordinance issued

The President has promulgated an ordinance amending the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) to empower the Central and State Governments to detain any person upto a maximum period of one year during the operation of the Emergency, without assigning any grounds for the detention.

The ordinance issued late last night under Article 123 of the Constitution, however, stipulates that the detaining authority has to make a declaration – and communicate it to the person concerned – that the detention is necessary "for effectively dealing with the Emergency."

When the orders for detention have been passed by a subordinate authority, it has to be reviewed by the State Government within 15 days of the issue of the necessary declaration. It will cease to have any effect unless it has been confirmed by the State Government. The question whether the detention of a person should be continued shall be considered by the appropriate Government within four months of the date of the original declaration and thereafter at intervals not exceeding four months in each case.

The ordinance empowers the Central and State Governments to detain a person without disclosing the grounds for detention during the operation of the Emergency or a period not exceeding 12 months whichever is shorter, but it also provides for the extension of detention of the same person beyond one year through a fresh order issued under the amended act.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 1, 1925

Bolsheviks and India

London, June 29: Colonel Sir Walter De Frece asked whether the Government of India had recently received any indication of Bolshevik agitation in India or on the Frontier.

Earl Winterton replied he was not quite sure what Sir Walter De Frece meant by Bolshevik agitation. Attempts at Bolshevik propaganda in India and the Frontier were continuous and openly advocated by Communist leaders in Russia.

From Page One

Blast kills 17 at pharma unit near Hyderabad

Distressed family members gather outside Sigachi Industries Pvt. Ltd. in Sangareddy district. NAGARA GOPAL

Panic and fear gripped the industrial belt of Pashamylaram as plumes of smoke, the wail of sirens, and a stream of ambulances and emergency vehicles descended upon the site of the deadly explosion.

The air near the blast zone hung thick and heavy, difficult to breathe as one approached the shattered remains of Sigachi Industries. The window panes of nearby offices were shattered in the blast. Initially all of the injured individuals were rushed to Kakatiya Hospital, located 3.8 kilometres from the blast site.

From there, depending on the severity they were shifted to Dhruva Hospital, Pranam Hospital, Archana Hospital, Star Hospital, Yashoda Hospital in Madhapur, and Panacea Meridian Hospital near Beeramguda.

Neighbourhood watch

In the aftermath, police cordoned off a 500-metre radius around the site to keep onlookers and local residents at bay. The sudden influx of emergency personnel and the persistent smell of chemicals in the air left the neighbourhood in a state of alarm.

Director of Factories Rajagopal Rao said that the unit was engaged in the manufacture of Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC), a white, odourless, tasteless powder derived from wood pulp.

"It is widely used as a binding agent in tablets and in various industries including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and food. While not inherently hazardous, officials are investigating the possibility that pressure build-up in the air-handling line may have caused the blast. Preliminary assessments suggest that the air handling unit may have exploded," explained the officer.

EC clarifies on rules for Bihar voter roll revision

The poll body added that as per instructions, anyone whose name is not on the 2003 Bihar electoral rolls can still use the extract of the 2003 electoral rolls rather than providing any other documents for his or her mother or father.

"In such cases, no other document would be required for his/her mother or father. Only the relevant extract/details of the 2003 ER would be sufficient. Such electors would have to submit the documents, only for themselves, along with the filled-up Enumeration Form," it said.

The EC guidelines said any person whose name is not recorded on the 2003 electoral rolls shall for establishing their eligibility to be an elector submit from among a wide range of eligible government documents. Apart from the enumeration form, an additional declaration form shall be required to be filled by the applicant to support the declaration made therein.

For those born before July 1, 1987, any document establishing the date and place of birth is required; those born between July 1, 1987 and December 2, 2002, documents have to be given as proof of place and date of birth of self and either of the parents; and those born after December 2, 2004, proof of place and date of birth have to be given of self and both parents.

The poll body further said that Article 326 of the Constitution specifies the eligibility to become an elector. Only Indian citizens above 18 years of age and ordinary residents in that constituency are eligible to be registered as an elector.

"Objective of SIR is to ensure that no eligible voter is left out, and at the same time, no ineligible voter is included in the Electoral Roll. More than one lakh volunteers have also been deployed to assist the elderly, sick, persons with disabilities and marginalised groups in filling up their Enumeration Forms," Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said.

Extremist leader, three others killed in Manipur

The two bodyguards were identified as Seikhogin, 34, and Lengouhao, 35. The slain woman was identified as 72-year-old Phalhing from Koite village.

The KNA is the armed wing of the Kuki National Organisation, one of about 25 Kuki extremist groups that signed a suspension of operations agreement with the Centre more than a decade ago to cease hostilities.

Manipur has been scarred by an ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo people since May 3, 2023. The scale of violence reduced after the imposition of President's Rule on February 13, but sporadic incidents of violence continue to occur.

Bihar has consistently fallen behind in registering births, report shows

Though registrations rose from 3.7% in 2000 to 16.9% in 2005, they were way behind national average of 56.2% and 62.5%, respectively; report comes amid voter roll revision in the State that has stipulated norms to establish a child's date of birth

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

According to the 2009 Civil Registration System (CRS) report compiled by the Registrar-General of India (RGI), the level of registration of births in Bihar in 2000 stood at 3.7% compared with the national average of 56.2% the same year. The total number of births registered across the country in 2000 was 1,29,46,823.

For those born in 2004 and 2005, the level of registration in the State was 11.5% and 16.9%, respectively. The countrywide registration was 60.4% in 2004 and 62.5% in 2005. The total registered births in 2004 and 2005 were 1,57,77,612 and 1,63,94,625, respectively.

The 2009 report said that "in order to quantify the impact of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which are performing abysmally poor for the last so many years, the level of registration for the country excluding these two States have been worked out", which rose to 78.3% in 2005.

A cute statistic: Medical institutions are to report incidents of births and deaths within 21 days of the event's occurrence. AP

"On comparison of estimated and registered births, it is found that there is significant gap in estimated and registered births in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh," the report said.

Revision for election

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which is currently going on in Bihar, stipulates that those born in India after December 2, 2004 would have to provide any of 11 documents, which include birth certificates, establishing their date of birth and/or place and furnish similar documents belonging to the father and mother of the applicant also. There were over 7.72 crore electors in Bihar during the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Monday said 4.96 crore electors do not need to submit any documents as they can verify their details from the 2003 electoral rolls when the last such exercise was carried out.

The Union Home Ministry amended the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 in 2023 that mandated digital birth certificates for those born after October 1, 2023 for admissions in schools, colleges and for updating electoral rolls.

However, periodic CRS reports show that not all births are registered. On March 17, the RGI office cautioned private and government hospitals to report incidents of births and deaths within 21 days after it was found that many medical institutions were flouting the law adding that nearly 10% births were not getting registered.

CRS and SRS

"To get an idea as to the coverage of civil registration in the country, the data generated from the Civil Registration System (CRS) has been compared with corresponding estimates thrown up by the Sample Registration System (SRS)," the 2009 report said.

While the CRS is the actual numbers, the SRS is the largest demographic survey in the country mandated to provide annual estimates of fertility and mortality indicators at the State and national level.

The EC's move to conduct the SIR has invited criticism from Opposition parties terming it as a move to bring the National Register of Citizens (NRC) through the backdoor.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi said the government should furnish the data on total number of illegal migrants in the country.

"How is the BLO (Booth Level Officer) going to scrutinise the documents? Why should people pay penalty for government not keeping a check on illegal migrants.. We want to know the criteria that was followed during the SIR in 2003," Mr. Owaisi said.

In 2022, as many as 2,54,39,164 births were registered. In 2022, Bihar was among 14 States where 50%-80% births were registered in the stipulated 21-day period. The State registered 71% births within the prescribed limit of 21-days.

Pakistan calls upon India to restore Indus Waters Treaty

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday urged India to resume the normal functioning of the Indus Waters Treaty, which New Delhi has held in abeyance since May, saying the recent decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague showed that the agreement was still "valid and operational".

India has never recognised the proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration after Pakistan raised objections to certain design elements of the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects projects under the provisions of the Treaty.

India rejects this so-called "supplemental award", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

In a statement, Pakistan's Foreign Office on Monday said the supplemental award announced on June 27 "vindicates Pakistan's position that the Indus Waters Treaty remains valid and operational. We urge India to immediately resume the normal functioning treaty", it added.

Senior officer dragged from office, beaten up in Odisha

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

An officer of the Odisha Administrative Service was brutally thrashed at the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), evoking shocked reactions from officials and Opposition political parties here on Monday.

Soon after Ratnakar Sahoo, Additional Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, attended a weekly grievance session at the Corporation building, he was dragged and beaten by a group of persons, said to be supporters of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader who had unsuccessfully contested the Odisha Assembly election in 2024.

The officer was injured. He later filed a complaint at the local police station.

Outrage over attack

"The officer was dragged from his office and brutally kicked and assaulted in front of a BJP corporator, allegedly linked to a defeated BJP MLA candidate," former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said on social media platform X, adding, "What is more appalling is that this happened in broad daylight, in the heart of the capital city of Bhubaneswar, to a senior officer, while he was in his office hearing the grievances of people," Mr. Patnaik said.

"I ask Chief Minister Mohan Majhi (@MohanMOdisha) Ji to take immediate and exemplary action against not only those who perpetrated but more importantly the political leaders who orchestrated and conspired this shameful attack," the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president said.

"The people named by the officer in his FIR [First Information Report] have behaved like criminals. If a senior officer is not safe in his own office, then what law and order will ordinary citizens expect from the government?" Mr. Patnaik said. BJD corporators led by Mayor Sulochana Das held a protest.

Independent probe sought into Kolkata gang rape case

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Three public interest litigation (PIL) petitions were filed before the Calcutta High Court on Monday seeking "independent investigation" into the gang rape of a student at a law college in Kolkata even as a fact-finding delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) visited the college, where the incident occurred on June 25.

A Division Bench led by Justice Soumen Sen of the High Court admitted the PILs and the matter will come up for hearing later this week. Providing an update on the investigation into the incident, the Kolkata Police, in a social media post, said, "Medicolegal examination of the victim and the accused persons has been completed. Forensic examination of the place of occurrence has been done."

The investigation is being monitored by a special investigation team (SIT) under the close supervision of senior officers. "The Kolkata Police are committed to ensure that the perpetrators of the crime face the harshest possible legal action and the victim gets justice at the earliest," a statement said.

The BJP fact-finding team negotiated with the police to let them enter the college premises. Student protesters clashed with BJP workers, leaving several students injured.

Classes have been indefinitely suspended at the college. The institution has been sealed, suspending teaching and learning activities of about 600 students.

Monojit Mishr (31), Zaib Ahmed (19), and Pramit Mukherjee (20) have been arrested in connection with the case.

China says border dispute with India complicated, ready for delimitation talks

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

China on Monday said the boundary dispute with India was complicated and would take time to settle but at the same time, it expressed its readiness to hold discussions on the delimitation of the border and keep it peaceful.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in his meeting with Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun in Qingdao on June 26, proposed that India and China should solve the "complex issues" under a structured road map comprising steps to de-escalate tensions along the frontiers and rejuvenate the existing mechanism to demarcate the borders.

Mr. Singh and Mr. Dong held bilateral talks on the sidelines of a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun.

Chinese port city of Qingdao, with a focus on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Asked for China's reaction to Mr. Singh's remarks, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "What I can tell you is that China and India have established the Special Representatives (SRs) mechanism on the boundary question and reached the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the China-India Boundary Question".

"China stands ready to maintain communication with India on issues, including delimitation negotiation and border management, jointly keep the border areas peaceful and tranquil, and promote cross-border exchange and cooperation," she said.

Questioned about the prolonged delay in resolving the border issue despite 23 rounds of the SR-level talks, Ms. Mao said, "The boundary question is complicated, and it takes time to settle it".

"The positive side is that the two countries have already established mechanisms at various levels for thorough communication. We hope that India will work with China in the same direction," she said.

India fast-tracks 52 satellites for precision surveillance following Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

ISRO will make and launch the first 21 satellites, while private companies will handle the remaining 31

After defence forces realised the need for more precision surveillance during Operation Sindoor, the Union government has ordered the fast-tracking of the launch of 52 dedicated surveillance satellites, enhancing round-the-clock monitoring of coastline and land borders.

In October last year, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet Committee approved $3.2 billion for the SBS-III programme to develop next-generation satellites over the next decade. Under the programme, ISRO will manufacture and launch the first 21 satellites, while private companies will handle the remaining 31. The Defence Space Agency (DSA) will oversee the operation of the newly launched satellite system.

"We have asked the private companies and ISRO for early launch of satellites. We are expecting first set of satellites to be launched by 2026," said a senior official. The official added that the new satellites will be using artificial intelligence (AI) to make smarter decisions and improve overall performance and efficiency in space.

During Operation Sindoor, satellite-based surveillance helped Indian defence forces to act swiftly by offering accurate intelligence, including the trajectory and movement of drones and missiles. India's satellites, like the Cartosat and RISAT, helped defence forces to track enemy mobilisation, confirm strike impact, and maintain real-time situational awareness, which prevented any major damage to the country's military assets.

After the successful implementation of SBS-III, India will become more self-reliant and reduce its dependence on other countries. It will help focus more clearly and accurately on the Pakistan and China border and the Indian Ocean Region.

Manipur civil groups meet officials in Delhi seeking peace plan

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Three civil society groups from Manipur met Union Home Ministry officials on Monday where a road map to peace and restoration of a popular government was discussed, a senior government official said.

Manipur was placed under President's Rule on February 13. The official said that though the issue of ending President's Rule was discussed, no assurance was given to the delegation.

The groups – Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity, All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation, and Federation of Civil Society Organisations – that arrived in New Delhi include Meitei and non-Meitei members from Manipur. The official said that this was the first time that the groups came together for the talks with A.K. Mishra, adviser (Northeast), Home Ministry, and Intelligence Bureau (IB) officials.

"They raised the issues of free movement on highways, security to farmers, action against illegal migrants, resettlement of internally displaced persons," the official said.

The groups also raised the May 20 incident in Gwaltabi when security forces allegedly tried to cover the word 'Manipur' on a State transport bus that was ferrying journalists to the hill district of Ukhrul for the Shirui Lily festival. The groups were assured by the officials that the issue will be taken up with the Manipur government.

MVA, MNS claim victory as govt. rolls back three-language policy

Facing intense backlash, the Maharashtra government has rescinded two government resolutions mandating Hindi as a compulsory third language in schools; State will form a committee to review the language policy and suggest a way forward

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

The rollback of Maharashtra's three-language policy in primary education has sparked a blame game, with the Bharatiya Janata Party accusing Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray of double standards, and his party's leaders defending Marathi pride.

The Maharashtra government on Sunday withdrew its controversial government resolutions (GRs) dated April 16 and June 17, which mandated Hindi as the third compulsory language in Marathi and English-medium primary schools.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that the State would set up a committee headed by educationist and economist Narendra Jadhav to study the issue and recommend an appropriate language policy.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his deputies, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, outside the Assembly on Monday. PTI

"Until the committee submits its report, both government resolutions stand cancelled," he said.

The Opposition has hailed the government's decision as a victory for Marathi identity.

Mr. Thackeray on Monday celebrated the reversal and said, "We have smashed the heads of Marathi haters. This unity should be preserved as we prepare for future battles."

"We appreciate the political parties which came together with us despite different stands. Temporarily, they [the government] have cancelled the GR. If they had not cancelled, they would have seen the protest on July 5th. Many leaders from Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP are going to join us. We will stage a victory rally on July 5," he told presspersons.

Nationalist Congress Party (SCP) leader Jayant Patil said: "The withdrawal of its own decisions on Hindi imposition shows how alienated this government is from the concerns of the people. It also underscores the dysfunctionality of the administration."

BJP Mumbai unit chief Ashish Shelar pushed back against Opposition claims and said, "In reality, Maharashtra, the Marathi people, and the BJP have won this fight. Uddhav Thackeray is politicising a policy that began under his tenure."

Mr. Shelar claimed that the original recommendation for a three-language policy stemmed from the Mashelkar committee report constituted under Mr. Thackeray's chief ministership.

"He formed the committee and included his own party representatives. Why deny it now?" he asked.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut lashed out at the BJP, alleging that they are making false claims of Mr. Thackeray accepting the Mashelkar committee's report on the three-language policy.

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray said, "People are trying to make the 150 to 200-year-old Hindi language as a national language superior to Marathi, which has a history of over 3,000 years. Hindi is not the national language to be imposed on other States. This kind of coercion is not right. Any attempt to place Hindi above Marathi will be opposed."

States must announce cooperative policy by January 31, says Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar, Secretary of Ministry of Cooperation Ashish Kumar Bhutani and Union Minister of State Murlidhar Mohol. ANI

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that every State should announce its cooperative policy before January 31, 2026.

Mr. Shah said that the National Cooperative Policy will be announced soon, and it will be effective from 2025 to 2045. He said that under the National Cooperative Policy, each State's cooperative policy will be formulated according to the cooperative conditions of that State and specific goals will be set.

He said that bringing discipline, innovation, and transparency to the cooperative sector across the country will be achieved through the Model National Cooperative Policy Act. The Minister added that the creation of two lakh primary agricultural credit societies should be completed by February 2026.

Mr. Shah chaired a "Manthan Baithak" with the Ministers of Cooperation of all States on Monday. He emphasised that for a country with a population of 140 crore, the growth of GDP and GSDP, and the creation of jobs were important. He said that cooperation was the only option for generating employment for every individual and the Ministry of Cooperation was established four years ago for this reason.

The Minister said that with sensitivity, cooperation must be revitalised for the welfare of millions of small farmers and rural people in the country, because there are immense opportunities in the cooperative sector.

Mr. Shah said that among the 60 initiatives to develop the sector, the creation of the National Cooperative Database was important. He said that the database has been created so that cooperative institutions at the national, State, district and tehsil levels can collectively realise the government's goal to open a cooperative in every village in the next five years.

The Minister said that there were three main reasons behind the weakening of the cooperative movement in India. He said that over time, the laws were not changed, which the Narendra Modi government has now amended.

PM Modi's five-nation tour to focus on defence, Africa outreach, multilaterals

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Defence, rare earth minerals, cooperation on counter-terror, and south-south cooperation will be among the focus areas during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's July 2-9 five-nation tour covering Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia.

Narendra Modi

"Broadly, we have a few areas that seem to be of interest to the Brazilian side. They are interested in secure communication systems on the battlefield. They are also interested in offshore patrol vessels. Brazil has Scorpene submarines – they are interested in partnering with us in maintaining those submarines. They also seem to be interested in the Akash air defense system and in coastal surveillance systems, Garuda artillery guns and so on," said P. Kumaran, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

The discussion on defence cooperation between Brazil and India is expected to take place during July 5-8, when Mr. Modi will visit Rio De Janeiro and Brasilia.

The highlight of the Brazil visit will be Mr. Modi's participation in the main session of the BRICS summit on July 6, when member countries will discuss "Reform of the Global Governance".

Other items at the summit will be "Peace and Security", "Environment, COP 30 and Global Health", strengthening multilateralism, economic and financial affairs and Artificial Intelligence.

Discussion at the level of National Security Advisers, business council meetings, women's business alliance and civil council-level talks will find convergence at the declaration of the leaders, said Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) of the MEA. He added that India will hold the BRICS chair in 2026.

Mr. Modi's visit to Argentina will mark the first full-fledged meeting between him and Argentina's President Javier Gerardo Milei. Defence, rare earth minerals, agriculture, traditional and renewable energy, and trade and investment are expected to feature in India-Argentina talks this time. In the BRICS meeting in Brazil and Argentina, India is expected to reiterate its concerns on cross-border terrorism.

Mr. Modi's first stop will be Ghana, where he will be hosted on July 2-3. This will be followed by his visit to Trinidad and Tobago on July 3-4, which will be followed by his visit to Argentina. The last stop in his tour will be Namibia, where he will pay tribute to Namibian decolonisation icon Sam Nujoma, who passed away on February 8.

An agreement on unified payment interoperability is expected to be signed during Mr. Modi's visit to Namibia. "Africa in recent times has evolved. It has become more aspirational. It wants manufacturing to happen within the countries and it wants value addition to happen within its countries," Mr. Ravi said.

Agriculture, building a vaccine development hub in west Africa, critical minerals, digital public infrastructure, and renewal of cultural exchange programmes will be among the "focus" areas during Mr. Modi's visit to Ghana, Mr. Ravi said.

Mr. Modi's visit to Trinidad and Tobago will be the first Prime Minister-level visit from India since 1999.

Congress demands resignation of Odisha CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after three people were killed in a stampede near Shree Gundicha temple in Odisha's Puri, the Congress on Monday demanded that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Manjhi and his deputy resign, taking responsibility, and called for a judicial inquiry into the incident.

It alleged that the government prioritised billionaire Gautam Adani, who attended the event, over crowd management. "This is not mismanagement. It is desecration," Congress MP Saptagiri Ulaka said.

Will resist any change to Constitution, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress will "fight tooth and nail if any word is touched in the Constitution", party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Monday. He was reacting to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale's call to review the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble. Speaking to reporters at his house in Bengaluru, Mr. Kharge called Mr. Hosabale "a man of Manusmriti".

Mr. Kharge said, "RSS is always against the poor people, the downtrodden and Scheduled Caste and other communities. If they are so interested, they could have removed untouchability. They claim they are the champions of the Hindu religion. If they are so, they should remove untouchability."

"And what was practised thousands of years ago, he wants the same to continue. That's why he doesn't like socialism, secularism and liberty, equality and fraternity," the Congress president said.

Mr. Hosabale, while addressing an event on the Emergency, said that "the Preamble of the Constitution Baba Saheb Ambedkar made never had these words." "During the Emergency, when fundamental rights were suspended, Parliament did not work, and judiciary became lame, then these words were added," he had said.

The Congress chief said that the RSS should deploy all its volunteers to make sure untouchability is removed.

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BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal)

KPCL invites tenders through e-procuremetnt portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2932/CALL-2 Date: 24.06.2025 Sale of Anticipated Mill Reject waste coal stocked on daily basis at BTPS mill reject yard. **EMD: Rs.4,15,800/-. (2) KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT2931/CALL-2 Date: 24.06.2025** Sale of Mill Reject waste coal (32000MT) on as is where basis stored at BTPS mill reject yard. **EMD: Rs. 4,45,920/-.** Last date for submission of bids For Sl. No. 1 & 2: **09.07.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from **Executive Engineer (Fuels)**, Mob: 094480830342. E-mail: eefuelsbtpskpcl@karnataka.gov.in, eefuelsbtpskpcl@ gmail.com.

3) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3055 Date: 25.06.2025 Reconditioning and Strengthening of Dozer blades and excavators bucket. Total tender amount: **Rs.25,86,376/- (Excl. GST). EMD: Rs.51,728/-.** Last date for submission of bids: **09.07.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from **Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-2**, Mobile: +919448290755.

4) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3073 Date: 21.06.2025 Erection and Dismantling of Cuplok Scaffolding system, Water washing, descaling of furnace and 'D' meter survey of boiler tubes/bends along with replacement of eroded tubes/bends for Unit-3 700MW Boiler of BTPS. Amount put to tender Approx.: **Rs.126.3 Lakhs (Excl. GST). EMD: Rs. 2.00 Lakhs.** Last date for submission of bids: **05.07.2025** Further details can be had from **Executive Engineer (BM)**, Mobile: 94808 30316. BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Ballari Dist.

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ADVT. NO. AVNLCO/HR/2025/05 (Corrigendum 02)

1. Please refer to above advertisement in ddpdoo.gov.in. The last date of receiving applications has been extended up to 19.07.2025
2. Applications can also be forwarded to **hr@avnl.co.in** for this advertisement as a special case.

HR Division, AVNL CO
Chennai
Email: hr@avnl.co.in
Dated: 30.06.2025 Tele: 044 – 26844808/26844810/9952025316

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"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

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No.KMSCL/ED/100/2024 Date : 28.06.2025

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Drugs for Thalassemia Management for the year 2024 - 2025.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. Drugs
1.	KMSCL/ED/THALASSEMIA DRUGS/RT/2025/13 dtd. 28/06/2025	05

Last date and time of online uploading of tender - 09.07.2025, 5.00 pm.
Date and time of opening of Technical bid - 11.07.2025 11.30 am.

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

पेंशन निधि विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण
PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a statutory regulatory body established by an act of Parliament viz. the PFRDA Act (23 of 2013) and being under the administrative control of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India with the mandate to promote, develop and regulate pension sector in India. PFRDA invites applications from Indian citizens for filling up of 40 posts of Assistant Managers (Grade 'A') in various streams on direct recruitment basis as under:

Stream	NUMBER OF POSTS					Total Posts	Out of which PwBD
	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR/ GEN		
General	4	2	8	4	10	28	1 – Autism, ID, SLD, MI or Multiple Disabilities
Finance and Accounts	1	-	-	-	1	2	-
Information Technology (Preferably in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML))	1	-	-	-	1	2	-
Research (Economics	-	-	1	-		1	-
Research (Statistics)	-	1	-	-	1	2	-
Actuary	-	-	1	-	1	2	-
Legal	-	-	1	-	1	2	-
Official Language (Rajbhasha)	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Total	6	3	11	4	16	40	1

2. Details of requisite qualification along with terms and conditions of appointment to the post may be seen at PFRDA website: **www.pfrda.org.in.** Eligible and willing candidates may apply through online mode from **02.07.2025 to 06.08.2025.**
3. PFRDA reserves the right to modify/cancel/terminate the exercise at any stage as may be considered appropriate by the Authority.

Chief General Manager (Human Resources)

इंटरनेशनल एडवांस्ड रिसर्च सेंटर फॉर पाउडर मेटलर्जी एंड न्यू मटेरियल्स (एआरसीआई), हैदराबाद
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वि.सं.एआरसीआई/एचआरडी/सीधी//1/2025 Advt. No. ARCI/HRD/RECT/1/2025

वैज्ञानिकों की भर्ती/Recruitment of Scientists

एआरसीआई, हैदराबाद सीधी भर्ती के आधार पर निम्नलिखित वैज्ञानिक पदों को भरने के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है:
ARCI, Hyderabad invites online applications to fill-in the following Scientific posts on Direct Recruitment Basis:

पद का नाम एवं विवरण Name of the post with details	आवश्यक योग्यताएं और अनुभव Essential Qualifications & Experience
1. वैज्ञानिक 'ई'/Scientist 'E' पदों की सं./No. of posts : 3 वेतन स्तर/ Pay level: 13 आयु/Age: 45 years	भौतिक विज्ञान में पीएच.डी. या एम.टेक./एम.ई. के साथ अनुसंधान एवं विकास में 10 वर्षों का अनुभव। Ph.D. in Physical Sciences or M.Tech./M.E. plus 10 years R & D experience.
2. वैज्ञानिक 'सी'/Scientist 'C' पदों की सं./No. of posts : 1 वेतन स्तर/ Pay level: 11 आयु/Age: 35 years	इलेक्ट्रिकल या इलेक्ट्रिकल एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स इंजीनियरिंग में बी.ई./बी.टेक. के साथ प्रासंगिक कार्यों में 4 वर्षों का अनुभव। B.E./B.Tech. in Electrical or Electrical & Electronics Engineering plus 4 years relevant experience.
3. वैज्ञानिक 'बी' (आर एंड डी)/ Scientist "B" (R&D) पदों की सं./No. of posts: 2 वेतन स्तर/ Pay level: 10 आयु/Age: 35 years आरक्षण/Reservation: UR - 01; OBC - 01	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय या संस्थान से भौतिक विज्ञान/ रासायनिक विज्ञान/समकक्ष में एम.एस.सी.। M.Sc. in Physical Sciences or Chemical Sciences or equivalent from a recognized university or Institute.
4. वैज्ञानिक 'बी' (आर एंड डी)/ Scientist "B" (R&D) पदों की सं./No. of posts: 5 वेतन स्तर/ Pay level: 10 आयु/Age: 35 years आरक्षण/Reservation: UR - 03; ST – 01 and EWS - 01	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय या संस्थान से इंजीनियरिंग/प्रौद्योगिकी/ समकक्ष में बी.ई./बी.टेक। B.E./B.Tech. in Engineering or Technology or equivalent from a recognized university or Institute.

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Last Date for submission of online application: 28.07.2025

INBRIEF

Navy stealth frigate *INS Tabar* extends help to tanker on fire

The Indian Navy's stealth frigate *INS Tabar* responded to a distress call from Palau-flagged *MT Yi Cheng 6* on Sunday. The *MT Yi Cheng 6* vessel with 14 crew members of Indian origin, transiting from Kandla, India, to Shinas, Oman, experienced a major fire in its engine room and total power failure onboard, the Indian Navy's Spokesperson said in a post on X, adding that the fire fighting team and equipment from *INS Tabar* were transferred onboard by the ship's boat and helicopter. Thirteen naval personnel and five crew members of the tanker are currently involved in firefighting operations, it said.

337 tonnes of Union Carbide waste incinerated in Dhar

Toxic waste weighing 337 tonnes from the defunct Union Carbide factory has been completely incinerated at a private waste treatment facility in Dhar district's Pithampur industrial area in Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Monday. The waste was moved to Pithampur in January this year, more than 40 years after the Bhopal gas tragedy. Sriniwas Dwivedi, Regional Officer, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, told *The Hindu* that the incineration was completed at the Ramky Group's Industrial Waste Management plant in Pithampur, about 35 km from Indore. The process began on May 5.

India to get above-normal rain in July, forecasts IMD

States such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Telangana should be watchful as catchment areas of rivers such as the Krishna, Godavari, Mahanadi could receive heavy rain, says meteorological body

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Rain check: Except for eastern and northeastern India, most regions have seen surplus rain. Strong rainfall is expected in the coming weeks due to the absence of an El Nino, says IMD chief. SANDEEP SAXENA

The monsoon rainfall in July, the most important month for agricultural operations, will be "above normal", or nearly 6% more than the 28 cm it usually receives.

However, several States, including Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Telangana, "ought to be watchful" as the heavy rain could lead to the catchment areas of several river basins, including the Krishna, Godavari, and Mahanadi, receiving surplus rain, Mrutunjay Mohapatra, Director-General, India Meteorological Department (IMD), said at a press briefing on Monday,

The IMD has retained its forecast of the monsoon (June-September) being 6% above normal.

"East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, parts of Vidarbha, and Telangana are likely to receive above-normal rainfall activity. We should take care of the river catchments. Major river basins like Krishna, Godavari, and Mahanadi will be impacted. Very high rainfall is expected in the upper Mahanadi catchment covering Chhattisgarh, and parts of Odisha, and the lower Mahanadi catchment. We should keep watch and monitor rainfall activity," Mr. Mohapatra said.

On Saturday, June 29, the monsoon covered the entire country – nearly nine days ahead of its normal scheduled date of July 8. The last time the monsoon covered the entire country within June was in 2020, and this year is only the 13th instance of such a rapid coverage since 1960. In six out of 12 years of such coverage, the monsoon (rainfall in June-September) has been above normal, the agency's data suggest.

The monsoon arrived in Kerala nearly a week ahead of its normal onset date of June 1. However, it stalled within a week, and only appreciably picked up pace after June 16. So far, the rainfall in June has been 8.9% more than what is usual for this time of the year.

Except for eastern and northeastern India, most regions have seen surplus rain. Northwest India has seen 42% more rain than its quota, central India has seen 24.8% more rain that its quota, while South India has witnessed a shortfall of about 3%. The strong rainfall that is expected in the weeks ahead is largely due to the absence of an El Nino, the IMD chief said.

Online, hybrid LL.M. degrees without BCI nod deemed invalid

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The council said such programmes fall afoul of its Legal Education Rules, 2020

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has clarified that any Master of Law (LL.M.) or equivalent legal programme offered through online, distance, blended, or hybrid modes –without its prior approval – will be considered unauthorised and will not be recognised for any professional or academic purpose.

"This includes employment, academic appointments, research registration, or judicial service and departmental promotional eligibility," the BCI stated in a recent communication. The regulatory body emphasised that it governs legal education standards and that such programmes fall afoul of its Legal Education Rules, 2020.

The Council said it has already issued show cause notices and is in the process of initiating action against several prominent institutions, including the National Law Institute University (Bhopal), Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur), O.P. Jindal Global University (Sonipat), and National Law University (Delhi). These institutions, it alleged, are offering LL.M. or similarly designated legal programmes via online, distance, or blended formats without requisite BCI approval.

"Some institutions sought to justify their programmes by suggesting they were 'executive' in nature, or 'not equivalent' to the traditional LL.M. degree. However, these claims were found to be untenable, particularly where the protected nomenclature 'LL.M.' was used in ads, brochures, and academic communications," the BCI said.

It added that the Legal Education (Post-Graduate, Doctoral, Executive, Vocational, Clinical, and Other Continuing Education) Rules, 2020, categorically prohibit LL.M. programmes from being delivered through online or hybrid modes.

Although the Rules have been challenged before the Supreme Court, no stay has been granted.

After 5-year gap, Railways announce 'rationalisation' of fares from July 1

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Official data: Indian Railways carried 715 crore passengers during the financial year April 2024–March 2025. M.A. SRIRAM

In a move aimed at streamlining fare structures and enhancing the financial sustainability of passenger services, the Ministry of Railways has rationalised the basic fare of passenger train services, with the revised structure set to take effect from July 1.

There will be no change in suburban single journey fares or season tickets for both suburban and non-suburban routes.

For ordinary non-AC classes on non-suburban trains, second class fares have been increased by half a paisa per kilometre, with no change applicable for travel up to 500 km. Beyond this threshold, the increase will be ₹5 for distances between 501 and 1,500 km, ₹10 for distances between 1,501 and 2,500 km, and ₹15 for distances between 2,501 and 3,000 km. Sleeper class and first class fares will also see an increase of 0.5 paisa per kilometre.

In the case of mail and express trains (non-AC), fares for second class and first class passengers have been hiked by one paisa per kilometre.

For AC classes in mail and express trains, fares will rise by two paise per kilometre across all categories – AC chair car, AC three-tier and 3-economy, AC two-tier, and AC first, executive class and executive Anubhuti.

The revision will also apply to premier and special trains such as Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto, Vande Bharat, Tejas, Humsafar, Amrit Bharat, Mahamana, Gatimaan, Antyodaya, Jan Shatabdi, Yuva Express, AC Vistadome coaches, Anubhuti coaches, and ordinary non-suburban services in accordance with the revised class-wise fare structure.

Ancillary charges such as reservation fees, superfast surcharges, and others remain unchanged. GST will continue to be levied as per the applicable rules, the Indian Railways spokesperson said. The Ministry has issued directives to all zonal railways for the smooth implementation of the revised fare structure. Zonal railways have also been instructed to update fare displays at all stations.

According to data available with the Ministry, Indian Railways carried 715 crore passengers during the financial year 2024-25. Of these, 81 crore passengers travelled in AC and sleeper class, while 634 crore travelled in the unreserved category.

Passenger revenue during the period stood at ₹75,750 crore.

The revision marks the first hike in train fares in five years. M. Jamshed, former Member (Traffic) of the Railway Board, described the increase of one to two paise per kilometre as "a rationalisation that was long overdue".

683 species added to India's fauna, 433 taxa to its flora during 2024

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

New entrants: (clockwise from top left) *Hylarana chozhai*; *Coelogyne tripurensis*; *Anguiculus dicaprioi*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India added 683 new species to its fauna in the year 2024, which included 459 new species and 224 species new records. The country also added 433 taxa of flora during the same period, which included 410 species and 23 infraspecific taxa of plants.

The details of new discoveries and new records were released by Union Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav in Kolkata on Monday.

The maximum number of new discoveries of fauna in 2024 was recorded from Kerala – with 101 species (80 new species and 21 new records) – followed by Karnataka – 82 (68 new species and 14 new records). Tamil Nadu recorded 63 discoveries with 50 new species and 13 new records.

In the east and northeast, Arunachal Pradesh recorded 72 animal discoveries (42 new species and 30 new records), Meghalaya 42 new discoveries (25 new species and 17 new records) and West Bengal 56 new discoveries (25 new species and 31 new records). Andaman and Nicobar Islands, another biological hotspot in the country, recorded 43 new discoveries of fauna from the region, which included 14 new discoveries of fauna and 29 new records.

In terms of plant discoveries, the highest number of flora discovered were from Kerala (58), followed by Maharashtra (45) and Uttarakhand (40). The new plant discoveries for 2024 record 154 angiosperms, 4 pteridophytes, 15 bryophytes, 63 lichens, 156 fungi, 32 algae and 9 microbes. The hotspot regions such as Western Ghats and North-Eastern regions have contributed 35% of total discoveries. India has recorded and documented 56,177 species of plants – angiosperms, gymnosperms, pteridophytes, bryophytes, lichens, fungi, and algae etc.

The significant faunal discoveries for the year 2024 include two new genus and 37 species of reptiles and five new species of amphibians. The significant discovery of reptiles included *Dravidoseps gouensis*, belonging to the new genus, and *Anguiculus dicaprioi* is a member of Colubridae family, named after Hollywood star, Leonardo Di Caprio.

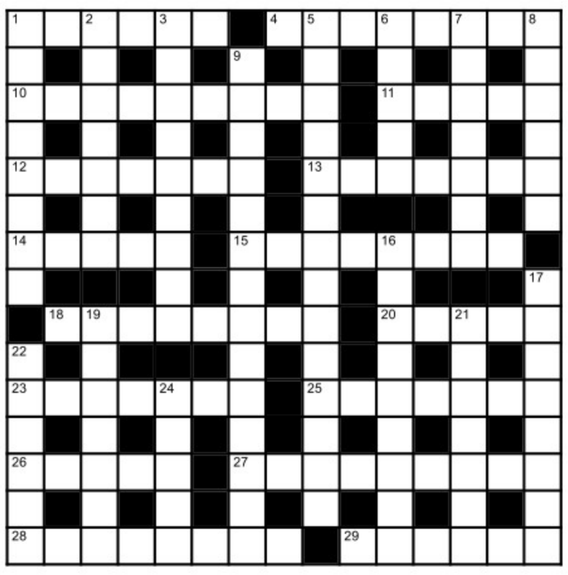
In terms of flora, the significant discoveries include important orchid species such as *Bulbophyllum gopalianum*, *Coelogyne tripurensis*, *Gastrodia indica* and *Gastrodia sikkimensis*.

TH CROSSWORD + 14525

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Australian native crazy to get a business degree (6)
4 Having the means to vent Nitrogen through the back (8)
10 Beer drinking - entire publicity is on a singer (9)
11 The diminished part of reclaimed compound (5)
12 A bizarre topic, "Eating right fruit" (7)
13 Difficult astride a horse - looking exhausted (7)
14 After weekend rains join regular Chinese characters (5)
15 First of all, make missing employees go into another shift - there will be resistance shown (8)
18 Plants spiked device (8)
20 'Royal Crown', part of Nova Scotia rail road (5)
23 Cup of tea left to become cold (7)
25 A country blocks message - taking a break (7)
26 Books houses - time to go for hotel (5)
27 Grounds restrict parking as they get into their shells (9)
28 Reporters go about collecting some money to back horses (8)
29 Cancel river crossing permit (6)

Down

1 Bankers involved a state (8)
2 Average in America for a factory to manage (7)
3 A new car, perhaps this could be revolutionary (9)
5 Opt for the smart activity usually (3,3,4,4)
6 Fish bit the fly finally - you're not telling the truth (5)
7 Domain equilibrium - both sides cross (7)
8 Strive to nab, close in (6)
9 Other converts not yet ostracised (4,2,8)
16 Following gents without clothes - how old are we? (9)
17 Willingness to provide gearless version (8)
19 Harry came in around the second of January looking pale (7)
21 Spaniard's admission in a square perhaps is absurd (7)
22 Put a lid on a drink (6)
24 Norwegian playwright in describing our stock market (5)

SUDOKU

							3	4
	6		1				5	
	3			6	2		1	7
			3			9		
6			8		9			5
		9			7			
9	2		7	3			4	
	8				1		6	
3	4							

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

N	I	M	B	U	S	L	I	C
E	■	O	■	N	■	■	D	■
P	A	R	I	S	H	■	M	E
O	■	D	■	O	■	M	■	A
T	H	E	S	P	I	A	N	■
I	■	N	■	H	■	R	■	D
S	I	T	T	I	N	G	R	O
M	■	S	■	S	■	A	■	W
■	■	■	E	T	H	Y	L	A
I	■	E	■	I	■	S	■	G
M	E	D	I	C	O	■	R	E
P	■	G	■	A	■	R	■	R
A	V	I	A	T	I	O	N	■
I	■	N	■	E	■	U	■	■
R	I	G	I	D	I	T	Y	■

E	N	S	E	E				
■	■	S	■	L	■	X		
M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T	
■	A	■	P	■	A	■	■	
■	■	U	P	T	U	R	N	
■	D	■	E	■	P	■	T	
O	M	S	■	■	■	■	■	
■	E	■	C	■	A	■	■	
C	O	H	O	L	■	■	■	
■	H	■	A	■	T	■	■	
R	E	L	A	U	N	C	H	
N	■	C	■	O	■	■	■	
■	M	I	L	I	E	U	■	
S	■	E	■	G	■	■	■	
S	M	I	R	C	H	■	■	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	5	9	7	4	8	1	6	2
7	1	6	5	9	2	3	8	4
2	8	4	3	1	6	5	9	7
8	9	5	4	2	7	6	3	1
6	3	2	9	5	1	4	7	8
4	7	1	6	8	3	9	2	5
9	4	8	2	6	5	7	1	3
5	2	7	1	3	9	8	4	6
1	6	3	8	7	4	2	5	9

FAITH

The Lord followed him

Thirumangai Azhvar, while praising Lord Sarangapani of Kumbakonam, uses the phrase '*thaN Kudandai*." Kudandai is the name by which the town of Kumbakonam was known in the past. The Tamil word '*thaN*,' means coolness, explained V.S. Karunakaracharier in a discourse. Kumbakonam is a pleasant place because it was here that Lord Sarangapani did miraculous things for His devotee Thirumazhisai Azhvar – like moving and speaking in His archa form. Because the Lord demonstrated His love for His devotee by breaking the rules of the archa (idol) form, naturally Kumbakonam, where this happened, is pleasing to all bhaktas. There is a temple near Kanchipuram, known as Thiruvekha, where again the Lord broke the rules of the archa form for Thirumazhisai Azhvar.

Lord Yatoktakari of Thiruvekha followed Thirumazhisai Azhvar, upon the latter's command. Thirumazhisai Azhvar, his disciple Kani Kannan and the Lord spent the night in a place not far from Kanchi. Kumaraguruparar describes the incident in a verse. The Lord followed Thirumazhisai Azhvar, holding His rolled-up serpent bed on His head with one hand. With the other hand, he held his yellow robe.

The place where the trio spent the night came to be known as *Or iravu irukkai*. In course of time, *Or iravu irukkai* became Orikkai. Every year, Siva and Vishnu temples of Kanchipuram would be closed till noon, on the day on which the Lord performed the miraculous deed of following Thirumazhisai Azhvar. The processional deity of Thiruvekha would visit Orikkai on that day. Later, the Siva shrines dropped the practice of closing for half a day.

INBRIEF

Recognize closes second fund with commitment $1.7 billion

Recognize, a New York-based private equity (PE) firm, which invests in next-gen digital services companies, on Friday announced the closure of its second fund, Recognize II, with over $1.7 billion in total commitments. Co-founded by managing partners Francisco D'Souza (also co-founder and former CEO and vice chairman of Cognizant Technologies), Charles Phillips, and David Wasserman, Recognize had raised $1.3 billion in January 2022 under its first fund.

Biological E. to produce China firm's HPV9 vaccine REC603

Hyderabad-based vaccine maker Biological E. will produce Chinese biopharmaceutical firm Jiangsu Recbio Technology Company's recombinant 9-valent HPV (HPV9) vaccine REC603 under a licensing cooperation agreement, the companies announced on Monday. The Hong Kong stock exchange listed Recbio, under the agreement, will provide BE with drug substance (DS) and transfer technology to formulate, fill and package the vaccines.

ITI to deploy BharatNet's ₹1,901 cr. project in NE Region

ITI Ltd., independent India's first PSU and a telecom manufacturing company, on Monday signed an agreement as Project Implementing Agency (PIA) with BSNL on behalf of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for NER-II (North Eastern Region) Package-15 of BharatNet Phase-3 Project. According to the PSU, the total value of the contract is ₹1,901 crore, including capital expenditure (capex) and operating expenditure (opex).

As GST turns 8, tax experts call for fuel inclusion, fewer rates

Though the GST law has provision to include fuel, it requires the approval of the GST Council comprising the Union and State Finance Ministers

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

As the Goods and Services Tax (GST) completes eight years of implementation on July 1, tax experts acknowledge its successes but say a lot more work needs to be done in terms of simplification and rationalisation of rates. Among the big reforms suggested are the inclusion of fuel in the GST regime, the reduction in the number of tax slabs, and streamlining audits and investigations.

Tax experts acknowledge that GST is much simpler than the previous regime where the sale of the same item could be taxed differently in each State. However, they also point out that it is time for the next phase of reforms in the indirect tax system.

"The next phase, GST 2.0, must focus on four priorities: expanding the tax base by bringing in sectors like petroleum and electricity, rationalising the GST rate structure, minimising input tax credit restrictions, and streamlining audits and investigations," Bipin Sapra, Partner and Indirect Tax Policy Leader at EY India said.

A report by PwC, too, has recommended that petrol, diesel, natural gas and other petroleum products should be included in GST.

Time to revisit

Tax experts acknowledge that GST is much simpler now, but it is time for the next phase of reforms in the indirect tax system

- Call to expand tax base, rationalise GST rate structure, minimise ITC restrictions, and streamline audits
- Essential for government to address procedural challenges and high value litigations on minor issues
- In the absence of an appellate tribunal there is opportunity to revisit the dispute resolution framework

Currently, the GST law has a provision for the inclusion of these items, but it requires the GST Council – comprising the Union and State Finance Ministers – to approve the decision to include them.

"Excluding these products, which make up a large part of costs for industries such as oil and gas, transport and logistics, has resulted in significant tax cascading and has caused cash flow problems for businesses," the PwC report noted.

The other issue, according to Karthik Mani, Partner - Indirect Tax at BDO India, is the procedural hassles that come with GST.

"While the Government has initiated steps to simplify the law by rationalising the tax slabs and automating the compliance system, it would be essential for the Government to address the procedural challenges and high value litigations on minor issues that are overshadowing the efforts of the Government," Mr. Mani said.

The PwC report also talks about how, given the "substantial number of cases currently pending, exacerbated in part by the absence of a GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), there is an opportunity to revisit and strengthen the dispute resolution framework under the GST law to enhance efficiency and timely redressal".

The third broad suggestion by the tax experts was to reduce the number of tax slabs under GST. Currently, there are five slabs – 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% – not counting the special rates of 0.25%, 1% and 3%, on various kinds of gold, silver, and diamonds. In addition, the Centre imposes a GST Compensation Cess on the items in the 28% slab.

Karnataka Bank shares fall after top boss, board member resign

Reuters

Shares of Karnataka Bank fell as much as 8.5% on Monday, and were headed for their worst session in nearly five months, a day after the Indian lender's top boss and a board member stepped down.

The shares trimmed some of the early losses to trade 5% lower at 2:50 p.m. IST. On Sunday, the bank said its MD and CEO, Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma, had resigned, citing "personal reasons, including his decision to relocate back to Mumbai".

Sekhar Rao, an executive director and a member of the board, also resigned

A committee has been set up to identify suitable replacements for the roles, the bank said

due to personal reasons.

A committee has been set up to identify suitable replacements for the roles, the bank said, adding that it is taking necessary steps to ensure operational stability.

The bank is "well-capitalised" with a capital adequacy ratio of over 19.85%, "which reflects the soundness of the bank's financial position", it said in a statement on Monday.

Bank credit growth slowed to 4.9% in fortnight ended May 30

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Bank credit growth to industry slowed to 4.9% at ₹38.7 lakh crore in the fortnight ended May 30, 2025, against 8.9% growth in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to RBI's sectoral credit report. The lending stood at ₹36.9 lakh crore in the same period last year.

Lending to micro/small industries slowed to 13.7% from 15.5% in the same period last year. Growth rate of loans to large industries slowed to 1% as of May 30, 2025, from 7.1% in the year-ago period. Loan growth increased to 16.8% in medium enterprises in the reporting period from 15.5% in the previous year.

Credit to agriculture and allied activities increased 7.5% in the fortnight ended May 30, 2025, as against a growth rate of 21.6% in the year-ago period, the RBI report said.

Bank lending to the services sector, too, grew just 9.4% as of May 30, 2025, as against 20.7% in the year-ago period.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,606	-0.54
US Dollar	85.76	-0.30
Gold	97,470	-0.20
Brent oil	67.60	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2619.40	-26.90
Adani Ports	1450.20	10.00
Apollo Hosp	7242.00	-66.50
Asian Paints	2341.10	-17.60
Axis Bank	1199.20	-25.90
Bajaj Auto	8376.00	-60.00
Bajaj Finserv	2056.00	12.00
Bajaj Finance	936.50	-10.50
Bharat Elec	421.50	7.00
Bharti Airtel	2009.60	-17.50
Cipla	1505.90	3.50
Coal India	391.95	-2.20
Dr Reddys Lab	1283.30	-17.70
Eicher Motors	5656.50	-3.50
Eternal Ltd.	264.15	2.29
Grasim Ind	2844.50	-16.60
HCL Tech	1728.60	5.30
HDFC Bank	2001.50	-13.40
HDFC Life	814.30	7.35
Hero MotoCorp	4237.10	-83.20
Hindalco	692.85	-4.50
Hind Unilever	2294.60	-12.30
ICICI Bank	1445.80	-16.40
IndusInd Bank	872.10	14.40
Infosys	1601.80	-6.20
ITC	416.45	-2.20
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	326.75	3.30
JSW Steel	1020.50	-8.40
Kotak Bank	2163.50	-44.40
L&T	3669.80	-9.40
M&M	3183.20	-20.10
Maruti Suzuki	12400.00	-242.00
NestleIndia	2465.30	6.60
NTPC	334.90	-3.40
ONGC	244.21	1.38
PowerGrid Corp	299.90	0.65
Reliance Ind	1500.60	-14.80
SBI Life	1838.30	-12.30
State Bank	820.35	14.95
Shriram Finance Ltd.	706.85	6.90
Sun Pharma	1675.70	-11.90
TataConsumerProduct	1098.90	-25.40
Tata Motors	688.00	1.10
Tata Steel	159.76	-1.69
TCS	3462.00	20.90
Tech Mahindra	1687.00	12.60
Titan	3690.20	24.00
Trent Ltd.	6217.50	198.00
UltraTech Cement	12093.00	-120.00
Wipro	265.98	0.93

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 30

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.56	85.88
Euro	100.31	100.69
British Pound	117.27	117.71
Japanese Yen (100)	59.28	59.50
Chinese Yuan	11.94	11.99
Swiss Franc	107.32	107.73
Singapore Dollar	67.13	67.39
Canadian Dollar	62.59	62.83
Malaysian Ringitt	20.30	20.40
Australian Dollar	55.88	56.10

Source:Indian Bank

FTAs to drive orders for MMF textiles, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) concluded by India and the ones it is working on will bring opportunities for the man-made fibre (MMF) textile sector, Union Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita said here.

Inaugurating an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), the Minister said the FTAs with the U.S. and the European Union would bring in more orders for MMF garments once they are signed.

India had set an ambitious target to cross $100 billion exports. MMF and its blends would be central in this increase in exports.

IIP growth slips to 9-month low of 1.2%

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity in India slumped to a 9-month low of 1.2% in May 2025, with mining, electricity, primary goods, and consumer goods sectors all contracting and manufacturing growth slowing sharply compared with levels in May last year.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on June 30, showed the last time industrial activity was lower than in May 2025 was in August 2024, when the Index grew 0.1%.

"As expected, growth in India's industrial production moderated to a 9-month low of 1.2% in May," Rajani Sinha, chief economist at CareEdge Ratings said. "Slowdown in manufacturing growth along with contraction in both the mining and electricity sectors dragged down the overall IIP growth."

Manufacturing sector saw growth rate halving to 2.6%.

The manufacturing sector saw its growth rate almost halving to 2.6% in May compared with 5.1% a year earlier.

Aurobindo arm resumes Penicillin-G output at unit

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Aurobindo Pharma subsidiary Lyfius Pharma has resumed Penicillin-G production on receipt of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board's go ahead to operate the Kakinada plant whose operations were paused after a fire in April.

"Lyfius, a wholly owned step-down subsidiary, has re-started the production with immediate effect after receiving the consent to operate from APPCB on June 29," the parent company said in a filing.

Following the fire incident, the firm said certain ancillary equipment were damaged and there was no impact to the core manufacturing infrastructure.

Indian economy remains a key driver of global growth: RBI report

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Despite an uncertain and challenging global economic backdrop, the Indian economy remains a key driver of global growth, underpinned by sound macroeconomic fundamentals and prudent macroeconomic policies, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its half-yearly publication, the Financial Stability Report (FSR).

"Growth momentum is buoyed by strong domestic growth drivers, sound macroeconomic fundamentals and prudent policies," said Sanjay Malhotra, RBI Governor in the foreword.

Rising global public debt is a matter of concern.

"Nonetheless, external spillovers and weather-related events could pose downside risks to growth. The outlook for inflation, on the other hand, is benign and there is greater confidence in the durable alignment of inflation with the Reserve Bank's target.

"The resilience of the domestic financial system is continuously improving, bolstered by strong capital buffers, low non-performing loans and robust profitability," he said.

"Results of stress tests reaffirm the strength of the banking and non-banking sectors with capital levels projected to remain well above the regulatory minimum even under adverse shock scenarios. The healthy balance sheets of corporates, banks and non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) augur well for the economy," he added.

As per the FSR, financial conditions have eased, supported by an accommodative monetary policy and low volatility in the financial markets, it said. The strength of the corporate balance sheets also lent support to overall macroeconomic stability

Geopolitical conflicts, capital outflows and reciprocal tariff/trade slowdown were the major near-term risks to domestic financial stability. "Rising global public debt is a key concern, especially in the context of elevated uncertainty," it added.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 22.07.2025
Last date of EMD : 21.07.2025

ARM – 2 Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310099. E-Mail – cb6298@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-2,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **22.07.2025 at 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **21.07.2025 .**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid
1.	**1. M/s.KCHERISMarketing Pvt Ltd** No.2/2, Venkateshpura, Jakkur Post Bengaluru – 560064 **2.Smt.Chamundeshwari V W/o Vijayakumar** 155/67, S K Road, Krishnapuram, Ambur, Vellore, Tamil Nadu-653802 **3. Smt. Uma Vijay Kumar** Flat No.E-103, Ground Floor, E-Block, F Tower, Garden Residency, Sy No.108/1, Kachanayakanahalli Village, Bommasandra,Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 099 **4. Smt. Uma Vijay Kumar** No 1710/28, Dr.Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar,3rd Stage, Bangalore-560021 **5. Smt.Uma Vijay Kumar** No 1169,1st floor, 20th A Cross, MCECHS Layout, Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bangalore-560077	Property No.1 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Flat No.BF 304, totally measuring a super built-up area of 1089 Sq.ft in the Second Floor of 'F' Tower in 'B' Block along with covered Car Parking space in the Basement/Surface/Stilt Floor numbered as BF-304 along with 400 Sq.ft of undivided interest in land comprising Schedule-A Property is one of such apartment units/flats in the said Apartment Building "Garden Residency", situated at Kachanayakanahalli village, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District,Bengaluru and bounded on: **East by**: Residential Apartment privately numbered as BF-303 in the second floor of " F" Tower in "B" Block, **West by:** Lift Area, **North by:** Common corridor and **South by:** Area open to sky of the apartment building.	**Rs. 4,48,09,053.54** as on **29.06.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon	a) ₹ 30.57 b) ₹ 3,05,700/- c) ₹ 50,000.00
		Property No.2 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Flat No.E-102, totally measuring a super built-up area of 1089 Sq.ft in the Ground Floor of 'F' Tower in 'E' Block along with covered Car Parking space in the Basement/Surface/Stilt Floor numbered as E-102 along with 400 Sq.ft of undivided interest in land comprising Schedule-A Property is one of such apartment units/flats in the said Apartment Building "Garden Residency", situated at Kachanayakanahalli village, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District,Bengaluru and bounded on: **East by:** Area open to sky of the apartment building, **West by:** Residential Apartment privately numbered as E-101 in the Ground floor of " F" Tower in "E" Block, **North by:** Area open to sky of the apartment building and **South by:** Common corridor.		a) ₹ 30.57 b) ₹ 3,05,700/- c) ₹ 50,000.00
		Property No.3 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Flat No.E-103, totally measuring a super built-up area of 1089 Sq.ft in the Ground Floor of 'F' Tower in 'E' Block along with covered Car Parking space in the Basement/Surface/Stilt Floor numbered as E-103 along with 400 Sq.ft of undivided interest in land comprising Schedule-A Property is one of such apartment units/flats in the said Apartment Building "Garden Residency", situated at Kachanayakanahalli village, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District,Bengaluru and bounded on: **East by:** Area open to sky of the apartment building, **West by:** Residential Apartment privately numbered as E-104 in the Ground floor of " F" Tower in "E" Block, **North by:** Common corridor and S. **South by:** Area open to sky of the apartment building.		a) ₹ 30.57 b) ₹ 3,05,700/- c) ₹ 50,000.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
Fordetailedtermsandconditionsofthesale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.canarabank.com/english/announcements/sale-notice/karnataka/ provided on the Secured Creditors' Website i.e www.canarabank.com. or may contact Chief Manager, ARM Branch II Bangalore, Canara Bank, Ph. No.,9113092975,8921102717,9993777728,9483544116,8709675503 and 080-25310181, during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 30.07.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

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TEHRAN

More than 900 people killed during 12-day war with Israel: Iran

AP

Iran's judiciary said at least 935 people were killed in the country during its 12-day war with Israel, state media reported on Monday, nearly a week since a ceasefire took hold. The death toll included 132 women and 38 children. Meanwhile, the death toll from an Israeli strike on Tehran's Evin prison has risen to 79. AFP

JERUSALEM

Israel acknowledges Palestinian civilians harmed at Gaza aid sites

AFP

The Israeli military acknowledged on Monday that Palestinian civilians were harmed at aid distribution centres in the Gaza Strip, saying that new instructions had been issued to Israeli forces following "lessons learned". It said incidents in which Gaza civilians were harmed were under review. REUTERS

MCLEOD GANJ

Dalai Lama suggests institution to continue at 90th birthday launch

AP

Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, gave on Monday the strongest indication yet that the 600-year-old institution would continue after his death, at prayer celebrations for his 90th birthday. The leader, who turns 90 on July 6, is according to Tibetans the 14th reincarnation of the Dalai Lama. AFP

BAKU

Azerbaijan raids office of Russia's media office in new diplomatic rift

AP

Azerbaijani police raided the office of Russia's state-run Sputnik news agency, detaining two journalists, in the latest escalation of a diplomatic rift between Baku and Moscow. Russia summoned Azerbaijan's ambassador over the raid at Sputnik's office, which has continued to operate despite a ban issued in February. AFP

Israel bombs Gaza in run-up to White House truce talks

The besieged strip witnesses massive bombings with 38 killed across the territory; Netanyahu's confidant is expected at the White House for talks following the U.S. President's call for ceasefire

Reuters
CAIRO/JERUSALEM

Palestinians in northern Gaza reported one of the worst nights of Israeli bombardment in weeks after the military issued mass evacuation orders on Monday, while Israeli officials were due in Washington for a new ceasefire push by the Trump administration.

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump urged an end to the 20-month-old war, a confidant of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected at the White House for talks on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran, and possible wider regional diplomatic deals.

Dire straits: Palestinians sit near the rubble of a house hit in overnight strikes in Jabalia in northern Gaza on Monday. AFP

But on the ground in the Palestinian enclave there was no sign of fighting letting up. "Explosions never stopped; they bombed schools and homes. It felt like earthquakes," said Mr. Salah, 60, a father of five children, from Gaza City. "In the news we hear a ceasefire is near, on the ground we see death and we hear explosions."

Israeli tanks pushed into areas of Zeitoun suburb in Gaza City and shelled areas in the north, while aircraft bombed at least four schools after ordering hundreds of families sheltering inside to leave.

At least 38 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Monday, health authorities said, including 10 persons killed in Zeitoun and at least 13 killed southwest of Gaza City. Medics said most of the 13 were hit by gunfire, but residents also reported an airstrike.

The Israeli military said it struck militant targets in northern Gaza, including command and control centres, after taking steps to mitigate the risk of harming civilians.

Not offering Iran 'anything', nor speaking to them: Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he was not offering Iran anything nor talking to it "since we totally obliterated" the country's nuclear facilities.

"I am not offering Iran ANYTHING, unlike Obama," Mr. Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"Nor am I even talking to them since we totally OBLITERATED their Nuclear Facilities."

The statement comes as Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister told the *BBC* that talks between Washington and Tehran cannot resume unless the U.S. rules out further strikes on Iran.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi told the British broadcaster that the U.S. had signalled it wants to return to the negotiating table, a week after it struck three Iranian nuclear facilities.

Contested claim: U.S. President Donald Trump has said his troops 'totally obliterated' Iran's nuclear facilities. AP

"We have not agreed to any date, we have not agreed to the modality," Mr. Takht-Ravanchi said.

"Right now we are seeking an answer to this question. Are we going to see a repetition of an act of aggression while we are engaging in dialogue?" The U.S. needs to be "quite clear on this very important question", he said.

The two countries were in talks over Tehran's nuclear programme when Israel hit Iranian nuclear sites and military infrastructure this month, with the U.S. joining by bombing three nuclear sites – Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan – on June 21.

'Wave of repression in Iran after Israel war'

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Iranian authorities have arrested hundreds of people and executed dozens in a wave of repression following the 12-day war with Israel, activists say, accusing the Islamic republic of using fear to compensate for weaknesses revealed by the conflict. Campaigners have been detained on the street or at home, executions expedited, prisoners transferred to unknown locations and minorities also targeted.

Six men were hanged on charges of spying for Israel, dozens more on other charges and more than 1,000 arrested on charges related to the war, according to Iran Human Rights, a Norway-based NGO.

Taiwan jails 10 persons over spying for China

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

A Taiwanese court on Monday jailed a coach of Chinese yo-yo and nine others for spying for Beijing, as Taipei seeks to counter China's influence on the self-ruled island.

The two sides have been spying on each other for decades, but analysts say the threat to Taiwan is greater given that China has threatened to use force to bring Taipei under its control some time in the future.

Taipei District Court convicted nine defendants of violating the National Security Act for "developing an organisation for China", while another was found guilty of illegal currency exchange.

Pakistan Army Chief calls J&K terrorism 'legitimate struggle'

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir has described terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir as a "legitimate struggle", saying his country would always stand by the people of Kashmir in their struggle.

Field Marshal Munir also warned India of a "befitting response" in case of any future attack, weeks after the two nations briefly locked horns in a dangerous conflict.

"What India labels as terrorism is, in fact, a legitimate and lawful struggle for freedom, recognised by international law," Mr. Munir said in Karachi on Saturday. "Those who have tried to suppress the Kashmiri people's will and pursue conflict elimination instead of resolution have only made the movement more relevant through their own actions," he claimed.

Asim Munir

He said that Pakistan would always stand by the people of Kashmir in their struggle for the right to self-determination. In the past, Mr. Munir had described Kashmir as Pakistan's "jugular vein".

'Pakistan and China may create new regional bloc'

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and China are working on a proposal to establish a new regional organisation that could potentially replace the now-defunct South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Quoting diplomatic sources familiar with the development, the *Express Tribune* newspaper reported that talks between Islamabad and Beijing are now at an advanced stage. Citing sources, the paper said that this new organisation could potentially replace the regional bloc SAARC, which comprises India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. KPTCL/HRDC/Civil/B76/57398/2024-25 Date: 30.06.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tender for Day-to-Day Operation & Maintenance of Hostel & Other accommodation rooms, Laundry Services and providing Catering Services at Human Resource Development Centre, KPTCL, Hoody, Bengaluru. **Estimated Cost :** Rs.1,55,85,000/- per annum (including GST)
Tenders will be received through KPP Portal only. The eligibility criteria and details about participating through KPP Portal can be got by logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **4.00 PM of 04.07.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Administrator,
K.P.T.C.L., Human Resources Development Centre,
Whitefield Road, Hoody, Bengaluru – 560048

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Eligible contractors for the following Works

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-EAST), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(WWM-STP) C.V	BWSSB/EE (WWM-STP) CV/PB/132/ 2025-26 Date: 16.06.2025	Rs. 37,50,000/- / Rs.75,000/-	08.07.2025 upto 04:00 pm.	09.07.2025 after 11:00 am.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-STP) C.V

The detail regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/1539/SSC/2025-26

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAMBAMURJI Viswanathan, s/o: Sambamurti Hariharan, r/o: Flat–23, Block–17 A, Nandi Gardens 2nd Phase, Avalahalli, J P Nagar 9th Phase, Blore–560062. Have Changed my Name as Viswanathan Sambamurti. Affidavit dated on 21/06/25.

I, SWETHA Rajan Puthukulangara, d/o Rajasekharan Puthukulangara Sankunni, No.138, 5th Main, JP Park, Mohan Kumar Nagar, Yeshwanthpura, Blr–560022. Have Changed My Name to Swetha Sreejith. Vide Affdavit on 27/06/25.

I, VISWANATHAN Ranjani, d/o: Viswanathan Sambamurti, r/o: No–6 SHIG–A–1 Ganga, KHB 5th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru – 560064. Have Changed My Name As Sriranjani Viswanathan. Affidavit Dated On 28/06/25.

I, JAMEEL Ahamed Syed, S/o Syed Imam residing at No. 537/1, Opp Gurukula School Road, Alahalli, J P Nagar 9th Phase, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name to Jameel Ahmed Syed vide affidavit dated 30/06/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, B'luru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VARDHARAJ**, S/o H R Rangaraj, aged about 43 years, R/o No. 10/G7, 4th Main, 8th Cross, Bairaveshwarana Nagar, Nagarbhavi Main Road, Near BBMP Office, Bengaluru North, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560 072 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VARADARAJ HIREMAGALUR RANGARAJ** to **VARDHARAJ**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **VARDHARAJ** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28-06-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S.N. MADHU** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HUDA Zama Sajjad, W/o Intekhab Alam residing at No.62, 5th Cross, R V Dental college, J P Nagar, 1st Phase, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to Huda Zama vide affidavit dated 30/06/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, SHILPA Keshavamurthy w/o Girish Gowda K T, 20, Shree Niketana, 1st A Cross Road, Road opposite to Revanna guest house, NRI layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru- 560016 have changed my name from Shilpa Girish to Shilpa Keshavamurthy vide affidavit dt: 26.06.2025 before Notary Anandkumar. J Bengaluru-560027

LOST & FOUND

I, SHUSHANT Kumar Singh have lost my Original MBA Certificate Roll no. 1227970044. If Found Please Contact: +919902955552.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, VINODHA Bai S H M/o Prashantha T V, R/o #419/A, Durgammana Beedi, Haranahalli, Shimoga-577416 do hereby declare that in the service records of My Son namely JC-390121Y Rank Subedar Name Prashantha T V, Unit-SQAE(L), Bangalore My name has been wrongly recorded as Vinoda H S & DOB as 01/07/1960, whereas my correct name is Vinodha Bai S H & DOB is 01/03/1967 vide certificate IN-KA50353978615547X dated 05/06/25 before Notary R.B.Basavaraju, Shimoga.

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s. INDIA GARAGE No.1 Palace Cross Road, Bangalore - 20 herewith notifies the owners of vehicles including the respective insurance companies, Financiars and Individualts that the Owners as listed below have left their vehicles in our workshops situated at various places across Karnataka without settling the legitimate outstanding bills till date. In spite of several reminders from our company, no person or entity has come forward to collect their vehicles by settling the outstanding amounts. Hence Final Notice is hereby given to the concerned persons/parties/ owners to come and collect thier respective vehicles by settling the outstanding amounts plus other charges inclusive of interest accrued. In the event of concernred parties of the vehicles mentioned below do not respond or fail to make arrangements to take back the said vehicles within 7 days of date of this notice, then it will be construed that the said parties have no claims whatsoever over the vehicles and are in unequivocal arrangement with our firm disposing off the same as SCRAP and in AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION. Contact us on **9606978537** or email to **vijay.hiremath@india-garage.in**. The details of the vehicles are as follows.

Sl. No.	Vehicle No. & Model	Owner name & Last Known Address
1	KA 35 M 8928	The Partner, SJS Logistic, D.No.17, Sri Hari Nilaya, Behind Prabhakar Complex, Dam Road, Hospet - 583203
2	KA 04 AB 8781	Mr. Vijaya Kumar N S/o. Nagaraju, No.107/2, Srirampura, Near Water Tank, Jakkur, Bangalore – 560 064
3	KA 04 MA 0989	M/s. Vyshnavi Information Technology India Pvt. Ltd., No.712, 11th Cross, 7th Main, MES Road, Muthyalamma Nagar, Gokula Extension, Bangalore – 560 054.
4	KA 08 M 3799	B.Rajesh Kumar, No.536, 18th Cross, KPCL Layout, Kasavanahalli main road, Off.Sarjapura Road, Bangalore – 560035
5	KA 54 8958	Mr.T.M.Javaraiah S/o.Doddamaraiah, T.Channapra Village Honnakere Hobli, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District – 571432
6	A2L88525	Mr.Venkatesh S/o. Narasimhaiah Bharathpur, Sompura H, Billana Kote, Nelamangala – 562111
7	KA 12 B 6069	Mr.J K Ramu S/O Kencha Chennangi Gudluru, Chennayana Kote, Virajpet Taluk, Karnataka - 571215
8	KL 12 H 4216	Mr. Joseph Thomas, #551 (18/573), Variseri Chulliyode (PO), Sulthan Batheri, Kerala, PIN: 673592
9	KA 06 D 8794	Mr. Nagaraju S/o Gangayya, Bugadihalli, Gollarahatii Narasipura, Bengaluru Rural Karnataka, PIN: 562 111
10	KA 11 C 1980	Mr. Shree Harsha S S/o Late Sampangiramaiah, No. 2193, 5th Cross, Hosahalli Kere, Gandhi Nagar, Mandya, Karnataka - 571 401
11	KA 11 C 2675	SRI Venkateshwara Traders, Katha N0.79, R H Road, Koolgere Gate, Kothipura, Maddur Taluk, Karnataka. PIN: 571 428
12	KA 10 A 2524	Nagaraju S S/o Siddaiah, No.38 Annuru Village, Gundlupet Taluk, Karnataka. PIN: 571 111
13	KA 09 Z 2188	Infosys Limited, 350 Hebbal, Hootagalli, Mysuru, Karnataka. - PIN: 570 027
14	KA 04 D 4715	SKS Hydraulics, #58, 1st Cross, Industrial Suburb, Near RMC Yard, Yeshwanthapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka. PIN: 560 022
15	KA 09 MC 4047	Mr. Mariswamy S/o Kalegowda, Kandegowdanapura Village, Kyathanahalli Post, H D Kote, Karnataka, PIN: 570 026
16	KA11 B 4136	Ms. Sudhamani W/o Naganna, No. 171 Mahadeshwara Temple Road, Channegowdana Doddi Karnataka, PIN: 571428
17	KA 12 B 6263	Mr.Subramani S/o Raju Kunjila Village, Kakkabe Post Madikeri Taluk, Karnataks, PIN: 571 211
18	KA 09 C 9276	Mr.Srinivasa L S/o Lakkegowda, Anandur Village, Ilawala Hobli Mysore Taluk & District, Karnataka, PIN: 571 130
19	KA 09 D 9101	Mr. Nagaraju S/o Late Ramalinga Hanumanalu Village, Bannur Hobli, Karnataka, PIN: 571 101

Canada rescinds tax on U.S. tech firms

Agence France-Presse
OTTAWA

Canada will rescind taxes impacting U.S. tech firms that had prompted President Donald Trump to retaliate by calling off trade talks, Ottawa said on Sunday, adding that negotiations with Washington would resume.

The digital services tax, enacted last year, would have seen U.S. service providers such as Alphabet and Amazon on the hook for a multi-billion-dollar payment in Canada by Monday.

Washington has previously requested dispute settlement talks over the tax – but on Friday Mr. Trump, who has weaponised U.S. financial power in the form of tariffs, said he was ending trade talks with Ottawa in retaliation for the levy.

But on Sunday, Ottawa binned the tax, which had been forecast to bring in Can$5.9 billion (US$4.2 billion) over five years.

Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne "announced today that Canada would rescind the Digital Services Tax (DST) in anticipation of a mutually beneficial comprehensive trade arrangement with the United States," a government statement said.

Sale of F-35 parts is legal: U.K. High Court

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. High Court has ruled that the British government's sale of F-35 jet parts to a consortium to which Israel also has access did not violate the law.

The court's ruling was made in a case brought forth by a group of rights organisations led by Al-Haq, an NGO in the West Bank that had challenged the U.K. government's supply of jet parts that could be used by Israel for purposes contrary to international law in its operations in Gaza.

The judges ruled that the decision to participate in such a consortium was a decision for the executive and not the courts.

The U.K. government had suspended around 30 of 350 arms licences to Israel past September, U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy had announced.

A specific carve-out was made for F-35 parts.

The judges ruled that the "acutely sensitive and political issue is a matter for the executive which is democratically accountable to parliament and ultimately to the electorate, not for the courts".

The human rights group Amnesty UK called the news "hugely disappointing".

OPTIONS OPEN

'Bumrah is available, participation call will be taken at the last minute'

GETTY IMAGES

India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said that a decision on Jasprit Bumrah's inclusion for the second Test will be made at the nth moment. "He's available... it's about how we manage his four Tests. He has had eight days to recover from the last Test. If we feel like there's value in playing him, we'll make that call at the last minute".

X-FACTOR

Archer's best is still ahead of him, says fellow fast bowler Woakes

FILE PHOTO

England will be unchanged for the Birmingham Test but Chris Woakes was chuffed to see pacer Jofra Archer, 30, back to full fitness. "When Joff's around, he adds a lot to the group, not just as a player, but as a person and a character. He's had a tough journey with injuries but I think his best is probably still ahead of him".

DIFFERENT LEAGUE

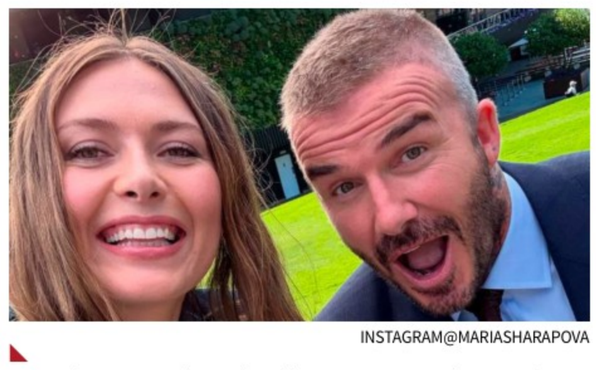
Mulder slams ton as Proteas set mammoth target for Zimbabwe

GETTY IMAGES

South Africa set Zimbabwe 537 runs to win the first Test after Wiaan Mulder's career-best 147 on Monday. Zimbabwe was 32 for one at stumps on day three, trailing by 505 runs with two days to go. **The scores:** South Africa 418/9 decl. & 369 in 82.5 overs (Mulder 147, Maharaj 51, Masakadza 4/98) vs Zimbabwe 251 & 32/1 in 18.2 overs.

STAR POWER

Sharapova and Beckham make their presence felt at Wimbledon



INSTAGRAM@MARIASHARAPOVA

Maria Sharapova and David Beckham were among the stars of screen and sports at Wimbledon on Monday for the start of the tournament. Sharapova, the 2004 champion at the All England Club, posted a selfie with Beckham on Instagram with the caption: "Let the (Wimbledon) games begin" with an emoji of tennis balls.

Suspense surrounds India's combination for Edgbaston

The biggest source of intrigue going into the second Test is around Bumrah's availability and whether the visitor has the firepower to dismiss England twice without him

INDIA IN ENGLAND

N. Sudarshan
BIRMINGHAM

In focus: It remains to be seen whether India will play both Jadeja and Kuldeep while Sai Sudharsan, centre, will be keen on making a mark with the bat. GETTY IMAGES

Watching a nets session ahead of an all-important cricket match is like sitting down to solve a crossword puzzle.

There may be what one considers straightforward or direct clues on offer, and there may be the cryptic ones which have multiple layers of meaning.

India's first open practice session ahead of the second Test against England on a sweltering morning here at Edgbaston on Monday put those assembled through a similar exercise. Then, in the media briefing that followed, India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate basically declared that every player on the roster was in the reckoning to play.

Permutations

Whether the Dutchman and the rest of the Indian think-tank fulfilled the job of an ace crossword-setter who disguises definitions masterfully within clues will be known in due course. But there were enough hints to set off multiple permutations and combinations.

In training, Jasprit Bumrah had a long chat with coach Gautam Gambhir and had limited bowling. Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep went all out. Kuldeep Yadav spun a brand-new red cherry with all the vigour in the world and offie Washington Sundar rolled his arm over too. Nitish Kumar Reddy batted along with the top-order and even took catches in the slip cordon.

The biggest source of suspense going into the tie, however, is around Bumrah's availability and whether India has the firepower to dismiss the opposition twice without him.

The confirmation beforehand that the maverick pacer would play just three of the five Tests is a double-edged sword.

While it may lend clarity to India's plans it can also ease the opposition's nerves. With India already 0-1 down in the five-match series after the defeat in Leeds, it has to find ways to win even without Bumrah to have any hopes of clinching the series.

"We picked the squad on trust, not hope," declared Gambhir in the aftermath of the Headingley reverse. "We have some inexperience, but they will get better. For four days [of the first Test], we were in a position [to push for a win]. Even on day five... so we believe that these bowlers will deliver."

Akash, Prasidh and Arshdeep Singh have played seven, four and zero Tests respectively but that doesn't preclude them from producing fine performances. Akash, in fact, bowled really well in his last two Tests against Australia in Brisbane and Melbourne. Prasidh improved through the first outing against England and even received a massive vote of confidence from Gambhir.

The weather and the pitch are variables that will affect selections. The summer in England has been brutal but rain is never far away in these parts. ten Doeschate then saying that the strip was quite "grassy and patchy" and "dry underneath" only added to the intrigue.

"There is a very strong chance of playing two spinners, but it is about which two we play," he said. "It is about juggling the batting depth. All three spinners are bowling well and Washi is batting very nicely. But I am pretty sure two spinners will play in this Test."

That's the closest anyone got to a direct clue on Monday. The solution will be revealed in less than 36 hours.

Woakes relishing the lead pacer role

N. Sudarshan
BIRMINGHAM

Ahead of England's opening Test against India in Leeds, the home bowling line-up was under the microscope.

Both Chris Woakes and Ben Stokes hadn't bowled much in the lead-up, and Josh Tongue and Brydon Carse were inexperienced.

But over the course of the match, Woakes' body held up for 43 overs and Stokes' for 35, and Tongue and Carse scalped a combined 11 wickets. Jofra Archer's return to Test-match fitness just made everything sweeter.

"It was a huge week for us, obviously better for myself," said Woakes, whose home ground is Edgbaston here. "I felt I could have bowled better in the second innings, but the body felt good."

Seam up: Woakes says he's happy to pass on the knowledge to the younger bowlers. GETTY IMAGES

Woakes, a 36-year-old veteran of 58 Test matches, stated that he was enjoying the role of being the lead pacer.

"I've played a lot of my England games with Jimmy [James Anderson] and Broadie [Stuart Broad]. It is different not having them around. But it's also a great opportunity for myself and it's good to pass on a little bit of knowledge to the younger guys who haven't played as much Test cricket. And I am also learning from them."

One of the biggest pluses from the series starter was Stokes' persistence and tenacity on the field.

"He doesn't do things in half measures," Woakes said of his captain. "When he's training, he's training. When he has time off, he has time off.

"When he's doing his work, it's a real pleasure to watch.

"Obviously, with the injuries that he's had, he's probably just doubled down on his fitness to make sure he's in the best shape possible to lead this team at his best.

"And he certainly did that last week and hopefully there's more of that. His relentlessness and energy on the ball were as good as I've seen for a long time."

England XI for second Test: Ben Stokes (Capt.), Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wk), Josh Tongue and Chris Woakes.

I'd love to play IPL in the future: Brook

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

After having been signed by Delhi Capitalsfor ₹6.25 crore in the 2025 IPL mega auction, Harry Brook decided to pull out of the tournament to focus on his England National team commitments.

The decision did not go down well in these parts, leading to a two-year IPL ban. Brook, however, has no regrets.

"It was an incredibly difficult decision. The IPL is an amazing tournament. It's tough cricket, with the best players in the world. The crowds and atmosphere are amazing. It is the best franchise tournament in the world. I would love to play the IPL in the future, but for the time being, the focus is on England duties," Brook said in a media interaction organised by *Sony Sports Network*.

Turning his attention to the second England-India Test, Brook stated that spin may come into the picture in the outing. "If there is any spin, it will probably be late on days three, four and five," Brook said.

(Watch the second Test between India & England from July 2, 3.30 p.m. onwards, Live on Sony Sports Ten 1 & Sony Sports Ten 5 channels)

Skipper Rew leads England u-19 to victory

Press Trust of India
NORTHAMPTON

Riding on captain Thomas Rew's brilliant century, England under-19 posted a narrow one-wicket win over India under-19 in the second ODI to level the five-match series 1-1 here on Monday.

India posted 290 in 49 overs after being asked to bat. England chased down the target with three balls to spare, reaching 291 for nine in 49.3 overs.

For the visitors, Vaibhav Suryavanshi (45), Vihaan Malhotra (49), Rahul Kumar (47) and Kanishk Chouhan (45) made useful contributions. This was after skipper Ayush Mhatre was dismissed off the first ball of the innings.

Medium-pacer R.S. Ambrish took four wickets for 80 runs to raise hopes of an Indian victory but the last wicket pair of Sebastian Morgan (20 n.o.) and Alex French (3 n.o.) saw the host through.

Rew (131, 89b, 16x4, 6x6) and Rocky Flintoff (39) resurrected the innings with a 123-run stand for the fourth wicket after the team had slipped to 47 for three.

The scores: India under-19 290 in 49 overs (Suryavanshi 45, Vihaan 49, Rahul 47, Kanishk 45, French 4/71) lost to England under-19 291/9 in 49.3 overs (Rew 131, Ambrish 4/80). **Toss:** England.

Alcaraz overcomes Fognini in a marathon; Bonzi ousts Medvedev

WIMBLEDON

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Carlos Alcaraz survived a major scare from Italian veteran Fabio Fognini as the World No. 2 started his bid for a third successive Wimbledon title with a marathon five-set victory on Monday.

Alcaraz battled to a 7-5, 6-7(5), 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 win over the 38-year-old Italian in a first-round clash lasting over four hours in sweltering conditions on Centre Court. It was first time since Roger Federer narrowly beat Alejandro Falla in 2010 that a defending champion had been taken to a fifth set in the first round.

Alcaraz shrugged off an inconsistent display including 62 unforced errors as he refused to wilt on the hottest opening day in Wimbledon history.

Tuesday's Picks

WOMEN

2-Gauff vs Yastremska
3-Pegula vs Cocciaretto
7-Andreeva vs Sherif
8-Swiatek vs Kudermetova
10-Navarro vs Kvitova

MEN

1-Sinner vs Nardi
4-Draper vs Baez
6-Djokovic vs Muller
7-Musetti vs Basilashvili
10-Shelton vs Bolt

Holger Rune crashed out in the first round as the Danish eighth seed blew a two-set lead against Chile's Nicolas Jarry. Rune was beaten 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 in three hours and 34 minutes.

Earlier, Daniil Medvedev found the roasting conditions and a French opponent who had not won a match on grass for three years too hot to handle as the ninth seed suffered a 7-6(2), 3-6, 7-6(3) 6-2 loss to Benjamin Bonzi. The Russian got all hot and bothered as Bonzi brought out what he described as his 'A-game' to dispatch the 2021 U.S. Open champion on Court Two, which felt like an oven throughout the three-hour match.

IMPORTANT FIRST ROUND RESULTS

Men: Bonzi (Fra) bt 9-Medvedev (Rus) 7-6(2), 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-2; 23-Lehecka (Cze) bt Dellien (Bol) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 7-6(0); 12-Tiafoe (USA) bt Moeller (Den) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Royer (Fra) bt 24-Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-3, 6-2, 0-0 retd.

2-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Fognini (Ita) 7-5, 6-7(5), 7-5, 2-6, 6-1; Fery (GBr) bt 20-Popyrin (Aus) 6-4, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4; Borges (Por) bt 16-Cerundolo (Arg) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-0; Jarry (Chi) bt 8-Rune (Den) 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Fallen seeds
Men: 8-Rune, 9-Medvedev, 16-Cerundolo, 20-Popyrin, 24-Tsitsipas; **Women:** 20-Ostapenko

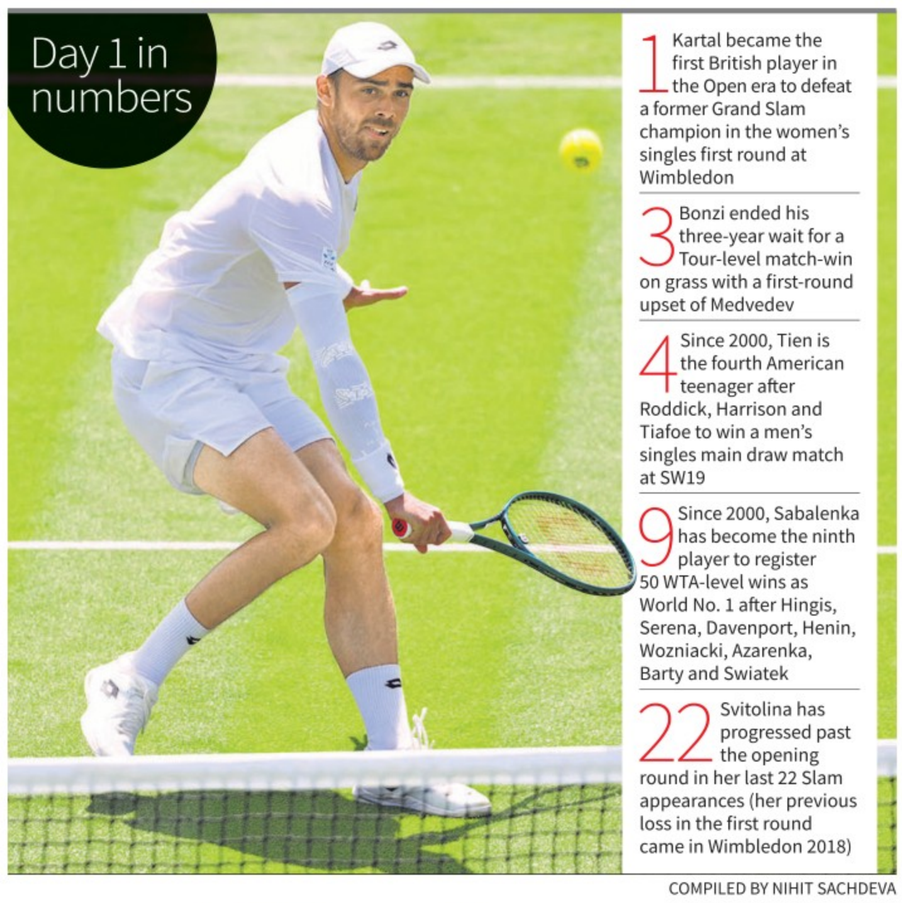
Women: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Branstine (Can) 6-1, 7-5; 14-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Bondar (Hun) 6-3, 6-1; 22-Vekic (Cro) bt Birrell (Aus) 6-0, 6-4; 30-Noskova (Cze) bt Pera (USA) 6-2, 6-4; Tomova (Bul) bt Jabeur (Tun) 7-6(5), 2-0 retd.; Kartal (GBr) bt 20-Ostapenko (Lat) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2. 29-Fernandez (Can) bt Klugman (GBr) 6-1, 6-3; 6-Keys (USA) bt Ruse (Rou) 6-7(4), 7-5, 7-5; 21-Maia (Bra) bt Sramkova (Svk) 7-6(9), 6-4; 12-Shnaider (Rus) bt Uchijima (Jpn) 7-6(5), 6-3.

Stefanos Tsitsipas was forced to retire from his first-round match due to a back injury. The former World No. 3, seeded 24th, was trailing 6-3, 6-2 to French qualifier Valentin Royer when he decided enough was enough.

Sabalenka advances

In the women's section, World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka overcame Carson Branstine 6-1, 7-5.

Elina Svitolina cruised past Anna Bondar 6-3, 6-1.


Day 1 in numbers
1 Kartal became the first British player in the Open era to defeat a former Grand Slam champion in the women's singles first round at Wimbledon
3 Bonzi ended his three-year wait for a Tour-level match-win on grass with a first-round upset of Medvedev
4 Since 2000, Tien is the fourth American teenager after Roddick, Harrison and Tiafoe to win a men's singles main draw match at SW19
9 Since 2000, Sabalenka has become the ninth player to register 50 WTA-level wins as World No. 1 after Hingis, Serena, Davenport, Henin, Wozniacki, Azarenka, Barty and Swiatek
22 Svitolina has progressed past the opening round in her last 22 Slam appearances (her previous loss in the first round came in Wimbledon 2018)

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

On song: Kane starred with a brace in Bayern's win. AFP

Bayern sets up a date with PSG

Associated Press
MIAMI GARDENS

Harry Kane scored twice as Bayern Munich capitalised on a quick start to beat Flamengo 4-2 in the Club World Cup round-of-16 on Sunday. Bayern Munich will face Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain on Saturday in Atlanta.

The results
(pre-quarterfinals): Flamengo 2 (Gerson 33, Jorginho 55-pen) lost to Bayern Munich 4 (Pulgar 6-og, Kane 9, 73, Goretzka 41).

INBRIEF

Home favourite Nikhat takes on Jyoti for the 51kg title

Nikhat Zareen defeated V. Lakshaya 5-0 to make the 51kg final of the Elite women's boxing tournament in Hyderabad on Sunday. She will take on Jyoti. Lovlina Borgohain secured a RSC win over Sneha to cruise into the 75kg final. Nitu Ghanghas beat Manju Rani to enter the 48kg title clash where she will meet Chanchal. Saweety Boora outclassed Babita Bisht 5-0 to make the 80kg final, while Ankushita Boro set up a summit clash with Shashi in the 65kg division, after beating Amita Kundu by the same scoreline.

India women's footballer Soumya undergoes surgery

Indian women's football team midfielder Soumya Guguloth underwent a successful surgery after she suffered a nasal bone fracture during her side's AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers victory over Timor-Leste at Chiang Mai (Thailand).

Kishore Jena ruled out of Neeraj Chopra Classic

The 2022 Asian Games silver medallist Kishore Jena has been ruled out of the Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 due to an ankle injury, the tournament organiser stated on Monday. Yashvir Singh, who edged out Jena to win at the Indian Open meet in Chennai in April, has been named as his replacement in the final line-up. The Neeraj Chopra Classic will be held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on July 5.

Azhar Mahmood is Pakistan's acting red-ball head coach

Former all-rounder Azhar Mahmood was on Monday elevated to the post of Pakistan's acting red-ball head coach until the conclusion of his current contract, which runs until April 2026.

Inaugural World Super Kabaddi League in Dubai

The organisers of World Super Kabaddi League (WSKL) on Monday announced that the inaugural edition, featuring about 30 countries, will be held in Dubai, tentatively in February-March next year.

Chennai Bulls wins inaugural Rugby Premier League

Chennai Bulls produced a brilliant performance to win the inaugural Rugby Premier League title with a thumping 41-0 victory over Delhi Redz in a one-sided final in Mumbai on Sunday. The margin was the in the maiden edition of the league. Hyderabad Heroes finished third place with a 17-12 win over Bengaluru Bravehearts.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Club World Cup, DAZN, 6.30 a.m. (Tuesday); 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Zimbabwe vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 4, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

Wimbledon: Star Sports 1, SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

England Women vs India Women: 2nd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11 p.m.

Ayush wins US Open for maiden World Tour title

Indian shuttler tames Yang in summit clash; the 20-year-old says there are a lot of positives to take away; eyes Canada Open next; Tanvi loses to top-seed in the women's final

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
IOWA (USA)

Smashing 'em: Ayush took down top seed and No. 3 seed during his victorious run. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rising shuttler Ayush Shetty notched up his first BWF World Tour title with a commanding straight-games victory over Canada's Brian Yang in the men's singles final of the US Open Super 300, ending India's title drought this season.

The 20-year-old, a 2023 junior World championships bronze winner, defeated third-seeded Yang 21-18, 21-13 in 47 minutes on Sunday to cap an impressive week, which included a come-from-behind win against top seed Chou Tien Chen in the semifinals.

It was Ayush's third victory over Yang, having defeated him twice earlier this year at Malaysia and Taipei Open.

"It means a lot, it's my first title in the senior circuit. So I'm really happy," the 6 ft-4 inch shuttler told BWF. "There are a lot of positives to take away."

In the women's singles final, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma finished runner-up after a fighting three-game loss to top seed Beiwen Zhang of the United States.

Playing her first World Tour final, the unseeded teenager went down 11-21, 21-16, 10-21 in 46 minutes. "I'm very happy with my performance," Tanvi said.

The men's singles final began evenly with scores tied at 6-6, but Ayush, seeded fourth, surged ahead with a string of winners to lead 11-6 at interval.

Yang narrowed the gap to 13-11 and drew level at 16-16, but the Indian regained control with well-placed shots to secure the opening game with a decisive jump smash.

The second game saw the Mangaluru shuttler race to a 7-2 lead before Yang briefly caught up, but the Indian maintained composure, mixing variations and sharp defence to keep his opponent at bay.

Leading 17-12, Shetty closed out the match with a cross-court punch followed by a powerful smash.

Ayush has it in him to be top-10 player: Coach

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Ayush.

Having turned the corner by claiming his first major international title at the US Open on Monday, Ayush Shetty has emerged as the next big thing in Indian badminton.

The Karnataka shuttler, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) here, has it in him to break into the world top-10, PPBA head coach Sagar Chopda said.

"Ayush's initial target was to be a top-25 player by the end of the year. With these kind of performances, this is definitely within his reach. In the long term, Ayush is a world top-10 player for sure. He has a very bright future," Sagar told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Sagar explained that Ayush's self-belief has built steadily in recent months, after semifinal appearances in the Taipei Open and Orleans Masters.

Ayush's fine net game and fearless approach counts as his strengths, Sagar said. "He has a good net game and a solid smash. With a good net game, he creates a lot of openings with a good tumble. And post that, his smashes are really, really sound. While a lot of players have to develop this, Ayush always had it in him. And he's not scared to hit. Even if he loses a point, it's okay with him."

Sagar added that Ayush must continue to work on his defensive game - a key element in combating the world's best.

Born in Karkala, Ayush moved to Bengaluru as a pre-teen to pursue the sport seriously. He initially trained at i-SPORTS, before joining PPBA in 2021. "A lot of credit goes to (i-SPORTS Founder and Head Coach) Krishna Kumar for shaping Ayush into what he is today," Sagar said.

The task ahead for Sagar and other coaches is to mould Ayush into a consistent world-beater. "All of us just have to keep working with him. This win is a good confidence booster for him going forward," Sagar said.

Physical fitness: Tanvi's coach Park says the youngster needs to improve her endurance. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tanvi taking a cue from Sindhu's aggressive style

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

More than a glimpse of shuttler Tanvi Sharma's vast potential was on evidence over the past few days as the 16-year-old became the youngest Indian to reach the final of a BWF World Tour tournament. Tanvi's exploits came at the Yonex U.S. Open, a Super 300 event at Council Bluffs, Iowa, that drew to a close on Sunday.

The unseeded youngster's march to the final comprised a series of straight-game wins, including a 21-19, 21-9 triumph over World No. 23 Nguyen Thuy Linh in the very first round. On Sunday night, she lost 11-21, 21-16, 10-21 to American Beiwen Zhang in the summit clash, but her coach Park Tae-sang has seen enough to proclaim that her attacking style resembles that of two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu. The South Korean, of course, coached the former World champion from 2019 to 2023.

It is no surprise that the teenager from Punjab's Hoshiarpur looks up to the 29-year-old. "Yes, I feel good that there are comparisons. I have to keep doing well to live up to that," Tanvi told *The Hindu* on Monday after her runner-up finish. "I like Sindhu's aggression on court. In this tournament, I played with a lot of aggression. I have developed my half-smashes by seeing her play."

As enthused as Park is with Tanvi's recent results, he knows that his ward at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati is far from the finished product. "Tanvi needs to improve her endurance and stamina. Against opponents older than her, she looked very tired. She needs more physical training," he said.

What are Tanvi's targets for this year?

"I want to get into the top-30 in seniors. There is also the World Junior Championships in India this year. That is the main target," stated the World No. 66.

Neeraj wants Tendulkar's 'superpower' to handle challenges

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Neeraj Chopra says he is 'slowly understanding the concept of flow' after his celebrated coach Jan Zelezny advised him to run like an 18-year-old 'without any tension' before launching his javelin.

The 27-year-old, a double Olympic medallist, also said he would want to have cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar's 'superpower' to help him handle challenges with a calm mindset.

He said the best advice he has received on and off the field was from Czech legend Zelezny, who holds the world record in javelin with a throw of 98.48m.

"Whenever I throw, I stay very energetic, but he (Zelezny) tells me I need to run in a flow. It shouldn't feel tight and should run like an 18-year-old kid without any tension. I'm slowly understanding the concept of flow," Neeraj told Star Sports.

Asked which cricketer's superpower he would like to have for throwing his javelin, Chopra said, "Sachin Tendulkar. He represented our country so well for so many years and made so many records for us. The way he faced challenges from many great bowlers and still performed exceptionally. I would want that superpower and try to do the same. It would help me handle challenges that come my way with a calm mindset," said Neeraj.

Neeraj said M.S. Dhoni's 'helicopter shot' resembles a javelin throw in terms of power and technique.

"I would like to try throwing javelin with Jasprit Bumrah too and hope he teaches me some bowling skills. While bowling and javelin are both throws, they are very different. I would like to learn from Bumrah."

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Chikkamagalur Dist. posts win

Chikkamagalur District took out Kalburgi District 84-55 in the State 'C' division men's basketball league championship here.

Other results: Dharwad District 'B' bt Bellary District 65-38; Kaiga BC Karwar bt Davangere District 63-44.

Saravana Ganesh's treble highlights Empire FC's triumph

Sri Saravana Ganesh's hat-trick powered Empire FC past Pillanna Garden FC in the final of the BDFA 'C' division football league championship.

The results:

BDFA 'C' division: Final: Empire FC 6 (Sri Saravana Ganesh 6, 30, 56, K. Kipgen 12, Tulsi Ram 50-og, Mohammed Ijas 55) bt Pillanna Garden 1 (J. Prem 58).

Best player awards: **Goalkeeper:** L. Droihongt (Empire FC); **defender:** S. Prabhu (Pillanna Garden FC); **midfielder:** A. Jude (Maharaja Socials FC); **forward:** Gasper Anthony (Pillanna Garden FC).

Chaitanya hits century

S. Chaitanya scored 137 for Jawahar SC (1) against Chintamani SA in their drawn KSCA Group I, Division II league outing here.

The scores: KSCA Group I, Div. II: Jawahar Sports Club (1) 380 in 89.5 overs (S. Amod Kaluve 56, S. Chaitanya 137, Surya Srinivas 50, C. Vaibhav 46, Pranesh Desai 46, H.P. Abhishek 5/100) drew with Chintamani Sports Association 301 in 80.1 overs (Aaron Cyril Christie 87, Amogh Srikanth 46, Vallabh Hegde 3/91, Dhyaan Mahesh Hiremath 4/98).

Modern CC 79 in 39 overs (Shubham Kumar 43 n.o., Likhit Bannur 3/17, Ritesh Bhatkal 6/43) & 145 in 48.5 overs (R. Shiv 72, Ritesh Bhatkal 6/69, Likhit Bannur 3/50) lost to Mount Joy Cricket Club 176 in 52.3 overs (R. Amogh Shetty 36, K. Gagandeep 73, Ritesh Bhatkal 32, Lakshan 4/64) & 52/5 in 13.4 overs (Lakshan 3/20).

Jayanagar Cricketers 290 in 74.3 overs (M. Saharsh Reddy 129, Sourab Muttur 70, Daman Deep Singh 5/72) drew with Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2) 264 in 87.2 overs (B. Krithin 62, Ansh Aima 83, Madhava Dharwadkar 51, Suhas Purushotham 4/69, Prithviraj 4/75).

Engrades Cricket Club 273 in 71.5 overs (Rupak 56, Mohammad Kaif Dange 34, Hemanth Patil 50, K. Vishnu Balaji 78, Mohammed Sadiq 7/67) drew with Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (1) 298/5 in 62.4 overs (Rahul Singh Rawat 87, Amay Tejas 107 n.o., V. Srithan 60, Hemanth Patil 4/94).

Friends Union Cricket Club (1) 225 in 62.2 overs (Rohan Revankar 71, Aashish Mahesh 41, Pranav Babu 34, B. Vineeth 4/71) drew with Dooravani Cricketers (1) 120 in 49.5 overs (Karna Surya Vamshi 40, I.G. Anil 5/25, Rajendra Danganavar 3/35) & 99/8 in 46 overs (Vivek Naik 35, A. Siddharth 5/18).

Palar Sports Club, Kolar 346 in 76 overs (Shreyas 75, Abu 127, S. Abhijit 37 n.o., N.S. Sachin 4/81) drew with Jawahar Sports Club (2) 193 in 58 overs (S. Manjunath 41, M. Rahul 37, R. Ajith 37, Pradyumna Srivatsa 46, S. Leshan 6/47) & 55 for no loss in 12.4 overs (M. Rahul 32 n.o.).

Jupiter Cricketers Association 163 in 47.3 overs (Smaran Ramesh 30, Ismail Mohtesham 33, Keshav Manjunath 3/40, D. Bharath 4/34) & 119/4 in 40.5 overs (V. Lokaksha 43 n.o., S. Sujay Kulkarni 45 n.o., Keshav Manjunath 3/32) drew with The Bangalore Cricketers 269/8 in 68.3 overs (S. Daivik 79, K.B. Shreyas 67, Ismail Mohtesham 3/52).

Minerva Cricket Club 319 in 83.2 overs (S. Nithish Gowda 50, Neeraj 104, Arnav Arun Bharadwaj 36, P. Varun Annadani 49, S.P. Banesh 4/66) drew with Malleswaram Gymkhana 259 in 64.3 overs (Gyan Somaiah 39, S.P. Banesh 50, V.L. Suraj 47, Vaasav Venkatesh 57, S. Chiranth 5/88, S. Nithish Gowda 3/72).

Group I, Div. III: Hammonds CC 195 in 46 overs (Milind Ramesh, K.H. Manoj 4/30, Hrishikesh Solanky 3/40) lost to Neptune Cricket Club 196/3 in 32.4 overs (N. Bharath 84 n.o., A.M. Kiran 39).

RV Engineering College Gymkhana 193 in 47 overs (C. Barath 49, U.V. Vishruth Dev 33, Mohammed Arshan 3/15, H.B. Raghuveer 3/40) lost to City Gymkhana 194/7 in 43.2 overs (Niksheap Khanapur 53, Brahmanya Theertha Kuber 34, P. Santosh Krishna 33).

Jolly Cricketers 158 in 36.3 overs (Ayush 39 n.o., M. Mithesh 30, Ketaj 4/45, S.K. Moinuddin 3/29) lost to Vijaya Cricket Club, Malur 159/4 in 28.2 overs (Praemnath Gode 85 n.o., Sumanth 3/39).

Slick: Yash Nensee (astride D'Amour Du Nenuphar) on his way to glory in the 130cm show jumping event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Isabelle Hasleder rides to victory

Isabelle Hasleder won the EPL Advanced Dressage (Open) event in the Equestrian Premier League held at Embassy International Riding School here.

The winners (horse name, riding school): Show jumping: 130cm: Yash Nensee (D'Amour Du Nenuphar, ARC); **120cm:** S. Basavaraju (Dinky Boy, EIRS); **110-115cm:** S. Basavaraju (Snow Man, EIRS); **105cm: Juniors:** Arnav Navaratna (Long Range, Zippy); **open:** Surya Ponmudy (Qina, ECE).

90-100cm: Sub-juniors & Open: Sonica Sunil (Mabel, CS); **80-90cm: Sub-juniors:** Eshaan Sundaram (Mallorca, EIRS); **open:** Sonica Sunil (Mabel, CS); **60-70cm:** G. Kapilesh (AK, CS).

EPL Preliminary Dressage: Sub-juniors: Punav S (Grand Duke, CEC); **open:** Dishant Kumar (Kannjo, EIRS); **EPL sub-junior Dressage: Open:** Barath (Absolute, SRR)

EPL Junior Dressage: Juniors: Manya (Abra, EIRS); **open:** Isabelle Hasleder (Sechs Richtige, CEC); **EPL Advanced Dressage Open:** Isabelle Hasleder (Knock Out, CEC).

A baseball twist in Smith's road to recovery

Press Trust of India
ST. GEORGE'S (GRENADA)

Charismatic Australian batter Steve Smith's quick recovery from a "compound dislocation" in the little finger of his right hand, and his sooner-than-expected return to the squad for the second Test against West Indies has a baseball twist to it.

In New York, he began by facing tennis balls and other soft balls in the nets before facing the hard cricket ball.

"My mate actually told me about it, which was ideal because it was pretty warm there (in New York)," Smith was quoted as saying in *ESPNcricinfo*. "Underneath this bridge there was a batting cage, and he was able to throw me a few balls there, so it was good to be in the shade, it was pretty hot there," he said.

Smith sent the footage of his batting to the Australian medical staff in the Caribbean, who were happy with his progress.

The report added that Smith had his stitches removed on Sunday and his finger now only has a thinner splint.